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EUROPE

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Labour's rethink on spin

Ministers vow to go back to basics

David Hencke and
Nicholas Watt

THE Government is to make a New Year resolution to tip the balance away from style and spin after the biggest crisis since its election victory 18 months ago: senior ministers disclosed last night.

They expect the Prime Minister to use Peter Mandelson's dramatic departure from the Cabinet last week to reassert Labour's basic policies — jobs, the NHS, education and new welfare policies to help Labour's traditional supporters, the poor.

Ministers emphasised that the New Labour project was not dead but that the poor presentation of it — the "mistake over Cool Britannia" and the attempt to associate Labour with a wealthy, glitzy, design-conscious elite — was badly flawed.

Instead, ministers want a higher profile for the substance of New Labour. This would include fresh emphasis on the New Deal initiative to get people off the dole and into jobs; on benefit support and new minimum wages for poor working families; a promotion of the large sums being poured into the NHS and schools; and modernising the decrepit transport system.

Support for a new direction is not confined to the traditional Brexiteers. It is understood that strong views have been expressed across the cabinet spectrum from traditionalists such as John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Margaret Beckett, leader of the House, to modernisers such as Stephen Byers, the new Trade Secretary, and Alan Milburn, the new Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

The strong views from ministers came as Tony Blair yesterday sent a blunt message to his opponents within Labour that they should not try to use Mr Mandelson's



'The project goes on. We got elected as New Labour, we'll govern as New Labour'

Tony Blair

resignation to undermine the modernisation of the party. In his first interview since Mr Mandelson's departure, the Prime Minister insisted that he would not be knocked off course by the loss of his close friend.

"There will be a certain number of people who will be foolish enough to think that Peter's going means that somehow there's some blow to the project of New Labour," Mr Blair said on Radio 4. "That goes on. We got elected as New Labour, we'll govern as New Labour."

Mr Blair's remarks were seen as a rebuke to unnamed ministers who suggested over the weekend that the loss of Mr Mandelson, one of the chief architects of New Labour, should lead to a reassessment of the whole project. There was even a suggestion that Labour should begin to sever its links with the Liberal Democrats.

Mark Seddon, the editor of Tribune and a member of Labour's national executive committee, backed the calls, saying that Mr Blair should place the emphasis "more on Labour, less on the new". He added: "Tony Blair was saying this morning, 'We're going to govern as New Labour... If it is about cooing up to big business and towards some sort of Gladstonian Liberalism of the last century as Roy Jenkins would like us to follow, I don't think Labour party supporters and people want that.'"

The Prime Minister dismissed such talk as he pledged to press on with his modernisation programme, with or without Mr Mandelson. "It's bigger than any individual," he said. "What is important now is that we keep a sense of perspective about it. The Government goes on, we move on."

Mr Blair said that Mr Mandelson had made a mistake in failing to declare the £273,000 loan from Geoffrey Robinson, which allowed him to buy a house worth 10 times his salary in Notting Hill. Mr Robinson resigned last week as Paymaster General after the Guardian disclosed details of the loan.

"He made a mistake, he did something wrong, and he paid a heavy penalty for it," Mr Blair said of Mr Mandelson.

However, Conservatives demanded a full inquiry into Mr Robinson's financial links with Labour. Peter Lilley, the deputy Tory leader, wrote to Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary, asking him to investigate how many ministers had been offered loans by the millionaire businessman.

Mr Mandelson is considering a number of career options. He may take up a role in the cross-party group that will campaign for Britain to join the euro. He is also considering making a television film with Oxfam in East Africa. He will not, as has been suggested, stand for mayor of London, and will not work as a spin doctor in next year's election campaigns for the new devolved bodies and the European Parliament.

The fall of Mandelson, page 2; Letters, page 5; Cover Story, G2; Roy Greenlade, G2, page 13



Will it all be a blur? This Oxford Street shopper has got the message, but M&S will be wondering if its TV adverts have registered PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Sales gloom as M&S turns to TV

Store chain strives to halt decline as sales get off to a sluggish start

Chris Barrie

MARKS & Spencer has begun advertising on national television for the first time in memory in an attempt to halt a drastic decline in the chain's sales. The move comes as the gloom in the retail trade intensified yesterday amid indications that the end-of-year sales had got off to a slow start.

Retailers hope the New Year sales will make up for poor pre-Christmas trading, which saw many shops forced to discount products in what has traditionally been the trade's most important period.

M&S's three-day advertising campaign, which began on Christmas Day, was designed to lure consumers

back into its stores as the company grapples with sliding sales and a fall in confidence.

Only a week before Christmas, one of the City's leading retail analysts estimated that M&S sales were between 6 and 10 per cent below last year's levels.

The company has already acknowledged the difficulties and two months ago reported its first fall in profits in nearly 10 years.

The troubles followed a hoardroom bust-up over which director would succeed Sir Richard Greenbury as chief executive. That row, combined with the fall in sales, has placed the chain under the spotlight and rocked investors' confidence in what was regarded as a reliable and steady group.

Running at peak times on the ITV network over the

Christmas period, the 30-second commercial was aimed at highlighting the range of merchandise on offer at reduced prices in the post-Christmas sales.

The TV campaign is designed to complement advertising in the press and follows selective advertising on TV in the regions to promote particular products. The company confirmed it had not used national advertising for many years but declined to quantify the cost.

M&S declined to comment last night on how sales had fared in the run-up to Christmas. But a spokeswoman promised a trading statement on Christmas trading, including post-Christmas sales campaigns, would be made within three weeks.

Some 100 M&S stores were due to open yesterday, about one-third of the total.

Shoppers elsewhere reported a lack of bargains and some retailers were forecasting this year's sales would not match last year's,

due to the restrictions of Sunday opening hours. The British Retail Consortium reported that confidence remained low, adding that overstocking last year had meant more bargains for consumers.

Spokeswoman Ann Grain said: "Consumers are much more cautious. There may have been three interest cuts but there were six rises before that and people have this

fear of depression around the corner. There are redundancies around and people are thinking, 'I could be next'."

However, Gateshead's Metro Centre had more than 50,000 shoppers pass through its 350 shops by lunchtime. Meanwhile, roads around the Lakeside Centre at Thurrock in Essex and at Meadowhall, Sheffield, were heavily congested as shoppers went bargain-hunting.

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With only five days to the birth of the euro, the Guardian this week examines how the historic event will transform Europe's political and economic landscape. **Page 12**

Football hooligans face tougher curbs

Will Woodward

NEW curbs on football hooliganism, including a ban on racist chanting, are likely to become law within months through a private member's bill to be unveiled today.

Simon Burns, Conservative MP for Chelmsford West, has decided to take forward Home Office proposals that will make it easier to ban thugs from grounds.

He came sixth in the ballot of MPs to bring forward a private member's bill, and, with government support, it has a good chance of becoming law. His Football Spectators Offences Bill would:

- Make it an offence for an individual to make racist or

indecent chants at football grounds. Current legislation allows conviction only if two or more fans are chanting.

- Extend ticket touting legislation to include curbs on touts selling tickets, in England and Wales, for matches abroad or in other parts of the UK.

- Lower the threshold for imposing restriction orders banning fans from grounds to "reasonable grounds", rather than the courts having to be satisfied that to ban the fan would actually prevent an offence being committed.

- Ban fans from grounds for up to 10 years if they have been convicted of an offence with a jail term (up from five years) and for six years if they have been convicted without a jail term (up from two years).

- Widen the definition of a "football-related offence" to include activities 24 hours either side of a match inside England and Wales, and 72 hours outside.

- Force courts to consider imposing a restriction order on any supporter convicted of a football-related offence, and to state their reasons if they decide not to.

- Require supporters under restriction orders to report to a specified police station.

Mr Burns said last night: "Despite the best endeavours of both the last government and the current one, the disgraceful behaviour by a small element of yobs and thugs at the World Cup in France last summer shows that more needs to be done to tighten up the law to allow the police

and the courts to take greater action against those hooligans who besmirch football, dishonour our national reputation abroad and spoil it for decent law-abiding football fans."

Home Office minister Kate Hoey said last night: "I am pleased that an MP in the ballot has decided to take through this very important and very necessary legislation."

She added: "It is in the interests of all supporters to see the lives of a small, ruthless minority made more difficult."

Ms Hoey may suggest amendments to beef up the bill when a consultation period on other measures ends on February 28. They include confiscation of pass-

ports of known trouble-makers five days before a match.

Other proposals in the consultation, published last month, include allowing courts to impose restriction orders even if individual fans have not been convicted, and to enable chief constables to impose alcohol sale bans in towns for certain matches.

Ms Hoey said: "It is a bit funny if we are asking other countries to do this and we are not prepared to have the legislation available ourselves."

The Government is concerned to get legislation on the statute book in time for Euro 2000 in Belgium and the Netherlands, and to help England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup.

Algeria D8.50	Spain £2.50	Kuwait KD 0.50	Qatar QR 8.50
Albania US\$2	Sweden K 30	Latvia US\$ 2	Romania LE 32,500
Andorra FF 10	Switzerland FF 10	Lebanon LL 9000	Russia US\$ 2.75
Antigua US\$30	Taiwan NT 3.50	Luxembourg LF 65	Saudi Arabia R 10
Australia A\$ 1.50	Thailand TH 3.50	Malta ML 0.55	Sierra Leone SL 200
Austria S 13.50	Turkey TL 250,000	Morocco D 25	Slovakia SK 75
Belgium BF 70	USA US\$ 3.00	Netherlands G 4.25	Slovenia SL 200
Belgium LV 1,500		Norway NK 4	Spain P 275
Canada C\$ 1.25		Oman O 100	Sweden SK 17
Croatia HR 15.00		Poland Z 6.90	Switzerland SF 3.50
Cyprus C\$ 1.10		Portugal E 200	Thailand TH 30
Czech Rep. KC 25			Turkey TL 250,000
Denmark DK 17			Ukraine US\$ 3.50
Dominican D 8.50			USA US\$ 3.00

UK news
The galets that swept Britain and Ireland over Christmas claimed least four lives and left thousands without electricity. **Page 5**

International
The smallest of the Texas octoplets, weighing only 10.3 ounces, has died of heart failure a week after being born. **Page 7**

Our e-mail address for editorial comments is europa@guardian.co.uk



Mr Mandelson's aide confirmed that a legacy would help him to settle his outstanding debts, but refused to explain where the money had come from



FREE FLIGHTS: 'Lifts' in US lingerie tycoon's plane were not declared, writes **David Hencke**

None of the trips has been declared as a gift in the Register of Members' interests. Mr Mandelson's office says the flights should not be declared

ous donations to Republican and Democrat candidates, of



Lingerie millionaire Linda Wachner, who describes Peter Mandelson as a friend

PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERT E. BLIKAT

between \$500 and \$5,000. Mr Mandelson's friend also has a reputation for being a "control freak". A recent article in the New York Post

said her "single-minded drive and corporate-suite daring have earned her such epithets as tenacious, imperious, dictatorial and egotistical"

"She's a notorious control freak and personally reviews every product line made by her companies," the paper said.

Ms Wachner's empire also exports Speedo swimwear and such Ralph Lauren designer products as Chaps to Britain.

THE LOAN: Building society money was secured before old flat paid off. **Nick Hopkins** reports

Asked before his resignation whether he had filled in the forms accurately, Mr Mandelson replied: "I have no

"I can confirm that Mr Harris is entirely correct in what

A high-contrast, black and white portrait of a man with dark hair, glasses, and a mustache. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. The image is framed by a thick black border.

Routledge: Mirror moved in as Sunday Times hesitated

THE BOOK: Mirror to carry serialisation as rival dithers, reports **Will Woodward**

"This is the political book of the year. It precipitated the downfall of Peter Mandelson and there are a number of

Mr Routledge's last book, a semi-authorised biography of the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, triggered one of the

While he has been continuing to write for the Mirror.

SEL

Nicholas Watt
Political Correspondent

his vehement denials that he had anything to do with leak-

represent a weakening of Mr Brown's power base within the Government because he is

lan was spotted outside the Red Lion pub in Whitehall confirming the story to other

cockney accent which is a far cry from his public school education.

Charlie Whelan: Blairites are predicting his downfall



Charlie Whelan: Blairites are predicting his downfall


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Nixon on women:

'A pain in the neck, very difficult to handle'

Nixon on blacks:

'You put incompetents in and get along with them because the symbolism is vitally important'

Nixon on Mexicans:

'That's the problem, finding a Mexican that's honest'

Nixon on Italians:

'Italians have somewhat the same problem'



Richard Nixon, with his wife Patricia, bidding farewell to White House staff in 1974. He had announced his resignation the night before on television

From beyond the grave, Tricky Dick tells the US: No sucking around, screw you all

Richard Nixon may be dead and gone but the testimony he left is alive in a federal court. **Michael Ellison** on a legal wrangle

RICHARD NIXON and Bill Clinton have much in common: the presidency, impeachment, and a propensity for bombing far-away nations. But for all his vices, Nixon found that his prejudices served him well when it came to avoiding The Great Clinton Felling.

Monica Lewinsky might only have been a White House intern but she would not have cut much ice with the disgraced Republican president. Women and government, Nixon believed, should be kept at a distance from one another. Females were "a pain in the neck" and not "really worth the effort."

Harsh words. Yet Nixon's view of women was relatively moderate compared with the comments he reserved for his own staff, military leaders and cabinet colleagues, not to mention black people and Mexicans: "With blacks you look the other way. The same with Mexicans, you've got to look the other way. You've got to find one who's honest."

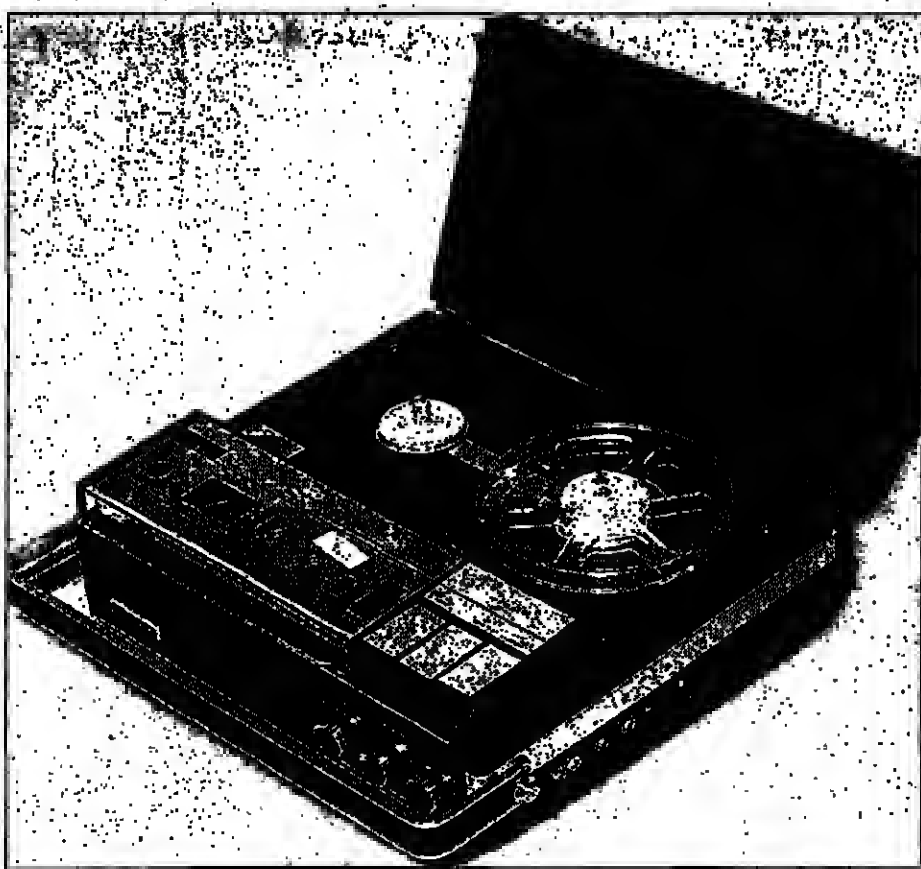
Nixon's controversial sayings have emerged in previously unheard tapes which were seized by Congress when Nixon resigned in August 1974 and which have been played before a federal court. His estate wants the court to rule that it is entitled to about \$213 million (\$145 million) in compensation and

24 years' interest for 42 million pages of documents, 3,700 hours of recordings, and thousands of photographs.

The US government claims that the late president never intended to cash in on his legacy. Justice Department lawyers argue that his inflammatory remarks are such that Nixon would never have wanted them to be made public — and have made the remarks public to prove the point.

Nixon and H R Haldeman, White House chief of staff, discussed the need for better personnel in top jobs at a meeting on March 8, 1971. A summary written by aide Fred Malek was an early stab at what was later to be dubbed affirmative action. "Blacks have the highest priority, followed by Mexican-Americans, and then ethnics," he wrote. "Competent women who can compete with men should be placed in selected positions, especially in those with symbolic value."

Nixon's audio version tells a rather less politically correct story. "With blacks, you can usually settle for an incompetent because there are just not enough competent ones, and so you put incompetents in and get along with them because the symbolism is vitally important. You have to show you care." His expectations of Mex-



The White House tape recorder into which Richard Nixon spoke... controversy continues

cans were not high, either. "That's the problem, finding a Mexican that is honest. And Italians have somewhat the same problem."

But the president was at least gracious enough to share his invective, extending it to members of his inner circle. A month after dealing

with the place of minorities in government, he delivered a nationwide television address in which he said that he was stepping up troop withdrawals from Vietnam and that he intended to finish American involvement in the war.

Nixon considered this one

of his finest speeches and was put out when few of his advisers called up to congratulate him. "Screw the cabinet and the rest," he told national security adviser Henry Kissinger, who had done his duty and offered no praise. "No more sucking around, from now on they come to me. I'm

sick of the whole bunch. The others are a bunch of god-damned cowards.

"The staff, except for Haldeman and [John] Ehrlichman, screw them. The Cabinet, except for [Treasury Secretary] John B Connally, the hell with them."

It was President Clinton's hero, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, for whom Nixon's ultimate condemnation was reserved, that of having had the South Vietnamese president Ngo Dinh Diem "murdered."

When the evangelist Billy Graham called to congratulate Nixon for his intention of winding down the war, he replied: "He [Kennedy] started the damn thing. He killed Diem and sent the first 16,000 combat people there himself."

And as for his generals, they were "a bunch of greedy bastards."

At least he did not question their sanity, a charge levelled at his political opponents. When Hale Boggs, Democratic leader of the House of Representatives, demanded the resignation of J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, for allegedly tapping the phones of Congress members and spying on students, Nixon said he was "off his rocker."

The president demanded of House Republican leader, and later president, Gerald Ford: "What's the matter with your opposite number? He's on the sauce, isn't that? I don't think I can tell him anything in confidence. Frankly, everything I say is classified. You cannot have a nut."

Or, it would seem, a woman or a black or a Mexican or an Italian.

RAF told to return Iraqi fire

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

BITISH planes will return fire if attacked by Iraqi anti-aircraft guns over the "no-fly zones" in the north and south of the country, the Ministry of Defence warned yesterday in the wake of Baghdad's claims that it had fired on allied warplanes attacking one of its air defence units.

Signs that the latest crisis in the Gulf is far from over came with a high-level threat from Baghdad at the weekend that United States and British planes would be confronted. "We say it clearly, any violations of our airspace cannot but be confronted by Iraqi fire," the Iraqi vice-president, Taha Yassin Ramadan, told Qatar's al-Jazeera satellite television station.

British officials last night played down the warning, suggesting that Saddam Hussein's regime was engaged in propaganda by trying to pretend that Operation Desert Fox, which ended last week after four days of air strikes and with both sides claiming victory, was continuing.

London and Washington also firmly denied Iraqi reports of an incident on Saturday, which an Iraqi military spokesman called an attack on an air defence position. The Ministry of Defence said a pair of RAF Tornados flying in formation over southern Iraq had spotted anti-aircraft fire some five miles away, too far away to be considered a threat.

A ministry spokesman in London said all British and American aircraft "operate to a very strict set of rules of engagement". "If aircraft are threatened those rules of engagement do allow the return of fire," the spokesman said.

In Washington, a spokesman for the US National Security Council said: "There was no attack. We had planes up enforcing the no-fly zone over Iraq, as part of normal operations."

A dozen RAF Tornado GR1 jets are based in Kuwait and took part in the four-day pre-Christmas bombardment of Iraq in Operation Desert Fox. The no-fly zone they are now

policing was set up in 1991 to prevent attacks by the regime on the southern Shiite Muslim population, then in a state of open rebellion, while a parallel one in the north is designed to protect the Kurds. Iraq calls both zones illegal though Britain and the US insist they were set up under full United Nations authority.

But their position was weakened when France, a fellow member of the UN Security Council, withdrew from patrolling the northern zone two years ago. Baghdad sees Paris, along with Moscow, as a key ally against the Anglo-American hard line in the diplomatic disarray that has followed Desert Fox. Mr Ramadan appeared to be playing on that theme when he alluded to the fact that French planes had stopped patrolling.

The key question now for the UN is what or who will replace the arms inspectors of the UN Special Commission, Uncom, charged with eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Uncom's certification is required before the punitive economic sanctions imposed on Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait in 1990 can be lifted.

On Saturday the Iraqi parliament issued a decree reiterating Baghdad's total refusal to allow the inspectors back into the country. "Now the issue of the Special Commission and its inspections is finished and that is final," Mr Ramadan said.

"This commission does not have any role or mission any more even in the sick American-British mind... they finished it by firing rockets and bombs in their last aggression," he said.

Signs of mounting pressure on Washington and London came from Jordan yesterday, where the Speaker of the Iraqi parliament, Sa'adoun Hammadi, lobbied fellow Arab MPs to flout sanctions in protest against the air raids.

And there were fresh indications that the attacks had been less than totally effective in terms of weakening the regime when an Iraqi television station owned by President Saddam's eldest son, Uday, resumed broadcasting on Saturday night, just nine days after it was hit.

Smart card that is smarter still

Tim Radford
Science Editor

BITISH defence scientists have opened the way for "smart" credit cards that will remind you of how much you have spent, every time you look at them.

They have produced a form of plastic liquid crystal display (LCD) that goes on showing the bad news even when there is no power supply.

A trio of electronics experts at Dera, the Defence Evaluation Research Agency, at Malvern, say their invention could be the ultimate flexible friend: a display on a credit card that you could bend, twist, flex, drop, tread on or let drop into the bath — and it would still go on telling you the ugly truth.

LCD is a piece of now-familiar magic in black and white: two thin sheets enclose a curious liquid with crystal properties. Selected little segments or pixels will change colour when voltage is applied. But switch off the power, and the message is lost as the LCD reverts to one colour. Until now, the liquid crystal has only spelt out the message when there is a battery attached.

But the Malvern team have

now patented Zebedee, or ZED: zenthal distable displays. Zebedee will mean that with each swipe through a cash machine, a credit card could update the sum spent so far in the magnetic strip on the reverse — and then display the update on the front.

The discovery is sure to give another huge push to a cashless revolution already beginning in Europe.

Experts predict that by 2002 the smart card industry will be heading for the £2 billion mark, with almost 4 billion cards in circulation.

Size is no problem for Zebedee: Guy Bryan-Brown and his colleagues, Carl Brown and Cliff Jones, worked with sheets of plastic containing corrugations only thousands of a millimetre across to make their magic material, nicknamed after a character in the children's TV programme The Magic Roundabout.

But the first use is likely to be in simple smart card displays: London Transport has already announced plans to issue smart cards that will pay fares as the commuter steps on to a bus or walks into a station: the scheme could, managers claim, save £30 million a year now lost in ticket fraud.

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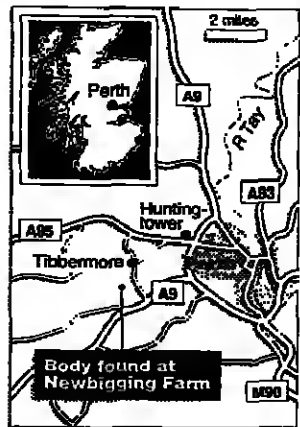
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Police carry away the body of Sally Greig (top left), after it was discovered in an isolated field outside Perth yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS BACON

Body of missing 18-year-old woman found in field

Walk homeward from party late on Christmas Eve may have ended in death from hypothermia

Will Woodward

A BODY found yesterday in a field is that of the missing Scottish 18-year-old, Sally Greig.

A post mortem examination

had last night yet to establish the cause of her death, but it was believed she may have died of hypothermia in the early hours of Christmas Eve. Detective Superintendent Ian Watson of Tayside police said yesterday: "I can say that her clothing was intact."

Miss Greig, a dental assistant from Perth, was found in a field at Newbigging farm, 2½ miles from the Huntingtower Hotel in Huntingtower, a village near Perth. She had left the hotel on foot around 11.30pm on December 23. The driver of a car spotted a woman matching Miss Greig's description about an hour later in the Tibbermore area, walking along an isolated road running west from Huntingtower. The driver and her family

spoke to the woman because they were concerned she was out so late. It is believed she was offered a lift but declined. Miss Greig's body was found by an RAF helicopter which joined 50 police officers taking part in the two-day search. An extensive search of streets surrounding the hotel had proved fruitless, as had a search of the banks of the nearby River Tay. Det. Supt. Watson said: "An RAF helicopter was able to join the search because of a

break in the weather, and after an hour spotted the body of a young female lying in a field." Miss Greig's parents, Brian and Barbara, attended a post-mortem at 4pm yesterday. Miss Greig was a popular teenager who enjoyed clubbing. On Christmas Day and Boxing Day, Mr and Mrs Greig had made an emotional plea for her safe return. At an earlier news conference Mr Greig, a sub-postmaster, said: "Sally is a normal

teenager who likes to go out to pubs and clubs." Close to tears, he told the news conference that he was baffled by her disappearance. "She's an intelligent, level-headed girl. This is way out of character for her. Why she left on her own I don't know. It doesn't matter if she's in trouble or there's something wrong — it just doesn't matter. I just want her to get in touch." Mrs Greig, a nursery nurse aged 35, added that although

her daughter lived away, she kept in touch: "She phones me all the time. We hear from her every day." "Sally is a lovely girl. This is completely unlike her. We were expecting her home on Christmas Eve but we haven't heard a thing." The couple were too distraught to speak about the death last night. A member of staff at the Huntingtower Hotel said: "It was just a normal Christmas party night. There were a few

Christmas parties going on in the hotel. None of the staff here saw Sally or spoke to her." Early reports that she had been seen at another nightclub, the Jazz Bank, after leaving the hotel were being discounted by some police sources. Miss Greig was a dental assistant at the Cherrybank Dental Centre in Perth. She shared a flat with a friend in Perth. She had one brother and one sister.



The Guardian's Christmas appeal offers readers the chance to donate to up to eight charities. Today, Helen Carter reports on the work of the Free Form Arts Trust

Trust makes an art form out of urban renewal

FOR almost 30 years, the Free Form Arts Trust has been striving to improve the environment for people in deprived areas of Britain.

Its work at the heart of urban regeneration has included building pedestrian subways in central London to make them more attractive and encouraging shopkeepers in Bolton to reconvert their shop fronts.

The trust helped parents in Hackney, east London, to raise money for a hydrotherapy pool for disabled children. In Reading, Berkshire, it set up a competition for artists to produce works in a £2.2 million public arts programme.

At Fish Quay in North Shields, Tyne and Wear, the trust took the risk of developing a building as an arts centre, which has visitors flocking to festivals there. Free Form also set up the Slough Young People's Centre, used by hundreds of teenagers.

Kofi Osei-Owusu was given hope for the future thanks to Free Form. When he left Thames Valley University in Slough 18 months ago he had finished a Higher National Diploma in product design but was £2,000 in debt. The course was winding down, and many of the lecturers had left the university.

Mr Osei-Owusu worked long hours in temporary, low-paid jobs, which barely made a dent in his debt. "I was trying to get a job in design, but because I hadn't experience with computers or a decent portfolio of work I couldn't find anything," he said.

"I wanted to eventually go back into education. I applied for some other courses but didn't get in. I was running out of momentum. There were so many things against me when I left university. I had planned to set up my own business, but I was far away from that goal."

Thanks to Free Form his life was transformed. He won a competition run by the trust to design a logo, which encouraged him to look for work. It took him on for work experience, and a newsletter he designed impressed his bosses. "Eventually Free Form advertised for an in-house designer at the centre, and I was delighted to get the job."

Now he is a project assistant, in charge of in-house design. His studio is kitted out with computers, a printer, drawing boards, graphics equipment and a scanner.

He is working with a graffiti artist and with a photographer who is struggling to build up a portfolio of his work, which he says he must have if he is to get a career going.

Mr Osei-Owusu, born in West Africa, has lived in Slough since he was seven. "I would have loved to have something like the centre when I was younger. It is a place where young people can be heard, and they are not discriminated against. When I was younger I didn't have the chance to gain such valuable skills."

Now aged 23, he is in a position to give other young people skills to help them build up their portfolios and seek work. The centre has piloted projects such as a drugs awareness programme, a drop-in advice service, careers and job support, and it hosts the Prince's Trust volunteer programme.

Mr Osei-Owusu realised how lucky he has been when he attended a university reunion. "Around 80 per cent of the people on my course are not working in art-related industries because they cannot get a job."

"It brought it home to me that if I didn't have the opportunity to work for the Free Form Arts Trust, I would probably be working in a printer's shop."

Fostering creativity

□ The Free Form Arts Trust was founded in 1969 in Hackney, east London, to help people to enhance public spaces through their creative efforts. It became a charity six years later.

□ It brings together artists and architects to help people to develop ideas and to contribute to the design and planning of buildings. □ It sets up and runs workshops to help people to discover their skills, focusing on overcoming the effects of

poverty or social exclusion. □ Within three years the trust hopes to move to new premises at London Fields in Hackney, east London. The project, costing £1.5 million, will enable it to provide more space for workshops, exhibitions and studios.

□ Free Form's wide range of projects include improvements to housing estates, public spaces, hospitals and other public buildings, as well as playgrounds and schools.



Kofi Osei-Owusu, whose career prospects were transformed when he won a trust competition. PHOTOGRAPH BY GARRY WEAVER

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Telecom workers' bodies identified in Chechnia

Tom Whitehouse in Moscow and Amelia Gentleman

FOUR headless bodies found in Chechnia on Boxing Day are those of the three British men and their New Zealand colleague who were murdered by their kidnappers in Russia's breakaway republic earlier this month, British diplomats confirmed yesterday.

The corpses of the telecommunications workers were found dumped on the outskirts of the capital, Grozny. Their severed heads were found by a roadside in the west of the region on December 26. The heads and bodies could be returned to their families in Britain today, if negotiations with the Chechen authorities go smoothly.

A British embassy spokesman said: "We have been in touch with the medical people in Chechnia. They have said the bodies are ours and we have accepted this."



Rudolf Petschi, Darren Hickey, Peter Kennedy and Stanley Shaw: corpses found near Grozny

Chechen officials said the bodies of Darren Hickey, Rudolf Petschi, Peter Kennedy and Stanley Shaw would begin their journey home today. But a legal-diplomatic dispute already threatens to delay their return. It is not possible to fly the corpses home directly from Chechnia. A Chechen official said they would be sent to the

British embassy in Baku, Azerbaijan, with which Chechnia enjoys good relations. The Chechen government is thought to oppose sending the bodies via Moscow as it might imply that Chechnia is still a part of Russia.

Due to the kidnapping threat, no British official has been sent to Grozny to aid the return. A firm of Russian

undertakers has been employed to escort them home. The four men were sent to Grozny to install a cellular phone system. In October, they were kidnapped by bandits. They were later executed by their captors, following a bungled rescue attempt. Eamonn Hickey, father of Darren, said last night: "At least there will be a funeral."

Model of fitness for larger sizes

Vivek Chaudhary Sports Correspondent

IF YOUR calorie count is climbing over the festive period don't fret. Astrid Loughurst is here.

But unlike other fitness teachers, who barely shed a drop of sweat after a workout, Ms Loughurst's fitness video, which goes on sale today, is designed to help larger people.

Ms Loughurst, aged 38 and a defiant size 20, is gaining popularity with the message that you can be large, proud and fit.

In the new year her robust workouts will be featured on GMTV's morning show and her video, The ABC Workout — Any Body Can,

is to be sold at clothes shops catering for large people.

Ms Loughurst said: "Society has an ideal shape and size and that is equated with fitness. But when people see me they realise that you can be large and fit. Not all people who are a size 10 are necessarily fit."

A trained dancer, she spent most of her teenage years obsessed with being thin. She had bulimia and constantly tried to lose weight to fit in with other dancing students.

"I would stand on the scales every morning, and if I had lost a pound I would be happy and if I had not I would be miserable. But coming to the realisation that I don't have to be thin has been brilliant. I am a

much better person; I am much kinder to myself."

Last summer she was featured on GMTV for four weeks. Dozens of people wrote in to say that seeing someone large doing fitness training had encouraged them to get fit. According to statistics, 61 per cent of men and 52 per cent of women in Britain are overweight.

Ms Loughurst's emergence as the largest fitness instructor is welcomed by fitness and diet groups. An Exercise Association spokeswoman said: "It's great to see someone like Astrid being promoted on television. A lot of large people are too embarrassed to go to the gym. Having someone the same size will make them feel comfortable."



Astrid Loughurst... large, proud and fit

NUS attacks 'shambolic' loans body

John Carvel Education Editor

STUDENT leaders yesterday accused the Government agency responsible for providing maintenance loans to undergraduates of shambolic standards of administration.

Andrew Pakes, president of the National Union of Students, said the Glasgow-based Student Loans Company was causing financial hardship by taking up to six weeks to process applications, in spite of a pledge to do the job within seven days.

"The Student Loans Company is in danger of defaulting on its public service agreement and failing to meet its efficiency and performance targets. The current claim of a seven-day turnaround for loan applications is a sham," said Mr Pakes.

A spokeswoman for the loan company said the NUS should have drawn the company's attention to any cases of difficulty so that it could provide prompt assistance.

Complaints by the NUS appeared to be based on a confusion between the role of the company and the job done by loan administrators in colleges and universities, she said.

According to the "catalogue of shame" published by the union:

□ a student at Southampton Institute had to leave before the end of term to take a temporary job because he was waiting for a loan applied for on the day he enrolled — the company said his bank details — the same supplied the previous year — were incorrect.

□ a student at Roehampton Institute, west London, had to wait eight weeks for a loan,

filling out five forms in the process, including one form twice.

□ applications to the hardship fund at the University of Portsmouth doubled because of delayed loan payments.

□ a Brighton student in "extreme hardship" pawned jewellery to raise cash;

□ application forms bound for Warwick university were sent to a warehouse in Birmingham;

□ only 400 application forms were provided to Glasgow university when it had asked for 700, making some students wait three weeks before they could apply;

□ forms also ran out at Dundee, Liverpool, Leeds, Aberdeen, Strathclyde, Glasgow Caledonian Paisley, and Heriot-Watt universities.

The company's spokeswoman said the union was focusing on half a dozen isolated cases, none of which could be attributed to the company. The company's booklet said: "Once we receive and validate the completed agreement and direct debit instruction, we will make a payment to your bank account, usually within seven working days."

In a separate development, the Committee of Vice-Chancellors reported yesterday that 14 education authorities were "significantly behind schedule" in means-testing students to establish if they could have the tuition fee.

As late as November, nearly 20 per cent of students had not been assessed. Diana Warwick, the chief executive, said the situation had improved, and overall the authorities responded "reasonably well".

Hurricane winds death

South Hall

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Storms kill four

Hurricane strength winds leave trail of death and mayhem

Sarah Hall

FOUR people, including a five-year-old boy, were killed and a fifth was last night feared dead after hurricane-force winds of up to 110mph lashed Britain and Ireland over Christmas.

Snow and rain wreaked havoc, with roads closed, travel disrupted, and thousands left without electricity. The battering is set to continue, with forecasters predicting more severe weather for western parts of Britain from tonight.

In North Wales, the youngest casualty of the storms, five-year-old Mark Huxley, died in a car crash caused by his mother's car being blown into a ditch.

In the Irish Republic, Michael Joyce, aged 26, was killed when a falling tree crushed his car near the village of Maam Cross in Galway.

In Northern Ireland, a 24-year-old man died yesterday morning at Comber, Londonderry, after his car crashed into a tree blown across the road.

Meanwhile, in Devon, a 44-

year-old man was swept to his death as he stood at the bottom of his garden watching the rain-swollen River Ashburn.

Paul Witt, from Ashburnton, is thought to have stumbled into the flood waters at around lunchtime on Boxing Day. A helicopter from RAF Chivenor searched for his body that afternoon, and members of the Dartmoor rescue group found it yesterday morning, half a mile downstream.

As the death toll rose, the search was called off for a 28-year-old man presumed drowned after being dragged out to sea by a 30ft wave off the coast at Brighton, in East Sussex.

The man, who has not yet been named, was taking a Boxing Day walk near the Palace Pier with his 41-year-old girlfriend and her 21-year-old son when the two men stripped off to take a swim. The son was struck by a wave and knocked back on to the beach, but the 22-year-old, from Tonbridge, Kent, was swept into the sea.

He was then briefly spotted by a rescue helicopter, but disappeared. The search resumed yesterday morning but bad weather forced it to be abandoned.

At the other end of Britain, a 16-year-old girl was in hospital with severe head injuries after being struck by a chimney stack blown off a

roof in Rothsay on the Isle of Bute, off the west coast of Scotland.

Louise Bennett, from Rothsay, was last night described as in a "serious" condition at Inverclyde Royal Infirmary, Greenock.

As gusts of up to 100mph hit Scotland, Scotland said winds had severely hampered services. Wind, severe flooding and fallen trees also closed many roads throughout the country.

The fierce gales also left thousands in the dark after bringing down power lines. In the Republic of Ireland, 70,000 homes were without electricity for a second night last night, while 20,000 were powerless in Northern Ireland. At the height of the storm, 160,000 homes were cut off in the province and 50,000 in Ulster.

In Scotland, 10,000 out of an original 60,000 were last night still without power, and in Lancashire and Cumbria, 3,000 remained struck. It is hoped power will return to all homes by this evening.

As parts of Scotland, Northern Ireland, Cumbria and Northumberland awoke to snow this morning, forecasters said today's milder weather was, for many, a hell before a storm. Western Scotland, Northern Ireland and the West of England are set to be lashed until Wednesday by torrential rain and gales of up to 65mph.



SCOTLAND: In Glasgow, the steeple of St Stephen's Church was blown into the church



NORTH-EAST ENGLAND: Wrecked caravans in Northumberland



NORTHERN IRELAND: A Belfast factory roof is blown onto houses



SOUTH-WEST ENGLAND: A Harbertonford, Devon, pub defies floods

BBC wins yuletide ratings battle

Sarah Hall

THE BBC has upheld its festive tradition by beating ITV for Christmas Day viewers.

True to the spirit of Christmas past, the corporation broadcast the most popular programme of the day — and seven of the top 10 most-watched shows.

For the second year running, *Mao Behaving Badly* lured the greatest audience, with 13.9 million viewers tuning in. In contrast, 5.9 million tuned in to ITV at the same time to watch Christmas from Hell, a documentary on seasonal disasters.

In the battle of the soaps, *EastEnders* reasserted its supremacy over *Coronation Street*. 13.9 million watched *Blanca* give birth in the Queen Vic, while 13.5 million watched the double delivery of Judy's twins in *The Street*.

The BBC news attracted nearly 9 million more viewers than its commercial rival — 13.1 million against 4.7 million.

Even the Queen's Christmas broadcast — with 10.4 million viewers, 2 million fewer than last year — proved more popular on the BBC: 7.3 million, compared with 3.1 million seeing it on ITV.

The unofficial, overnight figures were greeted with delight by Peter Salmon, controller of BBC1, who said the corporation was very proud of its range of Christmas offerings and promised "a lot more crackers still to come".

ITV also insisted it was "absolutely delighted" with the figures and said it was rapidly encroaching on the BBC's audience share.

A spokeswoman said that the top three placements could shift once the official British Audience Research Bureau (BARB) figures, incorporating videotaped programmes, are released in nine days' time.

"The top three programmes are very close together. People often video soaps and we may well find *Coronation Street*, or possibly *EastEnders*, in the number one position," she said.

The top 10 TV programmes were: *Men Behaving Badly* (BBC1) 13.9 million; *EastEnders* (BBC1) 13.5m; *Coronation Street* (ITV) 13.5m; *They Think It's All Over* (BBC1) 12.1m; *Before They Were Famous* (BBC1) 11.4m; *You've Been Framed* (ITV) 10.7m; *Emmerdale* (ITV) 10.1m; *EastEnders* (BBC1) 9.5m; *Auntie's Spanking* (New Bloomers (BBC1) 9.1m; *Babe* (BBC1) 8.8m.

Kate Adie rails at 'crudity' of MI6 officer's attack on her

Richard Norton-Taylor

AN ARTICLE in the Spectator magazine written by an MI6 officer under a false name was described yesterday by Kate Adie, the BBC's chief news correspondent, as a crude fabrication.

Ms Adie said she would have demanded an immediate correction if she had been alerted to the article, in March 1994, sooner. She was

staggered and puzzled by its "crudity of the distortion". She was singled out in an article attacking British journalists written, with a Sarajevan headline, under the name of Kenneth Roberts during the civil war in Bosnia.

Under the headline, *Glamour without responsibility*, the magazine described the author as working "with the UN forces in Bosnia", and said his name had been changed "at his request". Mr

Roberts, it pointed out, "says that journalists there should be held accountable for their actions".

Mr Roberts said Ms Adie had reported "yet another atrocity against the Muslims, perpetrated by the Croats. The following day, the reporter corrected the facts of the story but not before the warped version had drawn a complaint from the Croatian government".

The MI6 officer was referring to a massacre of Croats by the Bosnian army in the village of Uzdol.

The article was wrong in every respect. Ms Adie did not blame the Croats, she did not correct her report since it was accurate, and it did not prompt a Croat complaint.

She had identified the culprits and the victims. "The Bosnian army descended on Uzdol, then without leaving terrible evidence of their brief visit," she told BBC tele-

vision viewers in September 1993. She spoke of "systematic slaughter" and "wholesale killing" of Croat civilians.

Yesterday, she accused the author — who has now left MI6 — of writing a "complete fabrication".

She added: "What staggered me was the crudity of it. I went to Uzdol with the British army and European Union verification monitors."

She became aware of it last year, by that time it was too late to respond.

She said: "I would like to put the record straight, particularly as it seems to me to be such a crude attempt to distort the reputation of journalists who had the difficult task of reporting Bosnia and discovering who was truly responsible for some of the more horrendous acts."

This month, before disclosing that the author was an

MI6 officer, the Guardian approached Dominic Lawson, editor of the Spectator at the time. He denied any knowledge of an MI6 link.

Mr Lawson was named this month in the Commons as an agent working for MI6 — an allegation which he denied.

Former IRA chief who opposed sectarianism dies at 75

John Mullin

CATHAL Goulding, the former IRA chief of staff, died aged 75 on Saturday at a hospital in Dublin.

Goulding, who spent a total of 15 years in jail, was a com-

mitted Marxist. In 1969 he was left heading the Official IRA after the terrorist group split with the founding of the hardline Provisionals.

Born in Dublin, Goulding disagreed with those living on the front line of the Troubles who wanted arms to resist loyalist gangs. He viewed that

as sectarianism when he saw British imperialism as the real enemy.

He was much criticised among republicans because he embraced the political approach at a time when Catholics were being burned out of their homes. He was an advocate of Sinn Féin taking its

place in the Irish parliament. Goulding, a house painter, was jailed in 1963 for eight years for an arms raid on the cadet armoury at Felshead School in Essex, which stored 108 rifles and eight Bren guns.

He spent his time in Pentonville Prison, and altogether spent 15 years behind bars.

He brought the Official IRA to permanent ceasefire in 1972, after it shot dead William Best of the Royal Irish Rangers.

Goulding became a prominent figure in the Workers' Party, the political wing of the OIRA. It later became Democratic Left and he remained a supporter.

Asked why he had become IRA chief of staff, he said: "Well, I suppose I must have outlived the others."

Obituary, page 10

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John Hooper in Rome reports on signs that the Great Jubilee in 2000 may prove his biggest challenge yet

Pope falters as Holy Year beckons

THERE was a small, sad change in the Pope's sermon given at Midnight Mass in St Peter's in Rome. The text made available earlier to journalists had him saying: "My thoughts already turn to Christmas next year when, God willing, I shall inaugurate the Great Jubilee."

What he actually said was: "...when, God willing, the Church will inaugurate the Great Jubilee."

It might have been accidental. But those who cover the Vatican assume that everything which emanates from it has a significance. Pope John Paul II is known to be determined to lead his billion-strong Church through the most momentous Holy Year it has ever celebrated — the commemoration of the 2,000th anniversary of Christ's birth. But his health is failing visibly. He is no longer, it would seem, assuming that it will be he who knocks at the Holy Door, the main entrance to St Peter's, on December 24 1999 in the ceremony that launches the Great Jubilee.

Holy Years have been celebrated since 1300, normally at 25-year intervals. But this will be the first to coincide with the start of a millennium.

The year ahead will be an unusually demanding one both for the Pope and his officials as they plan the Holy Year events and arrange for the arrival in Rome of an estimated 26 million pilgrims.

Several questions still hang over the Jubilee. The Pope has frequently expressed the hope that he will be allowed to visit the Middle East in 2000. The Vatican would like to see him make a journey retracing the life of the patriarch Abraham, who is revered by Jews, Christians and Muslims alike — a pilgrimage that could offer a basis for greater understanding between the three religions.

Raphael Bidawid, Iraq's Roman Catholic Patriarch, said last month that the Pope's visit to the lands of



The Pope faces a difficult year as he battles against his falling health and makes plans for the celebration of the 2000th anniversary of Christ's birth

the Old Testament might take place in November next year.

There has long been speculation that the Holy Year might also include a ceremony in Rome involving representatives from several religions and denominations. But as yet there are no firm plans for either the Middle Eastern pilgrimage or the ecumenical ceremony.

In the meantime the Pope will have to cope with the

normal routine of a pontiff — a round of engagements involving high-profile international trips.

His first is a visit to Mexico at the end of January that is planned to lead on to a meeting in St. Louis with President Bill Clinton. This is unlikely to be a particularly warm encounter after details of Mr Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky and Operation Desert Fox in Iraq.

The Vatican is, on principle, opposed to any action that subjects innocent civilians to suffering. This is particularly true of countries, like Iraq, with sizeable Catholic populations — some 200,000 in Iraq's case.

The Pope's hatred of communism, moreover, has tended to obscure the fact that the US permits many of the things to which he is most opposed. In his traditional *Urbi et Orbi* (to the

city and the world) Christmas Day message, he called for "urgent and adequate measures to halt the production of arms, defend human life, and ban the death penalty". Bearing in mind that "defend human life" is the Vatican's code for "stop abortion", all three of those strictures could have been aimed directly at the US.

In Rome the Pope's attention will be focused on a synod, scheduled for the

autumn, which will bring together bishops from two contrasting directions. In western Europe there are bishops who would like to see greater participation by the laity, a wider role for women and more tolerance of homosexuality. Their pressure for further reform runs counter to the stance taken by many Catholics in eastern Europe who, isolated from the mainstream of the Church for almost half a century

under communism, are still coming to terms with the liberalisation introduced by the Second Vatican Council which ended in 1965.

Such fundamental differences pose a clear threat. The last thing the Vatican wants is for open dissension at next year's synod, so close to the start of the Holy Year when world attention will be increasingly focused on Rome and the Roman Catholic Church.

France clamps down on reckless skiers

Paul Webster in Paris

SKIERS who fail to respect basic safety rules could face fines of up to \$25,000 at several big Alpine resorts in France as the winter sports season began with weekend warnings of increasing dangers on the slopes.

The mayor of Saint-Martin-de-Belleville, Georges Cudin, who is an adviser to the tourist ministry, said new by-laws introduced by his Savoie council, which administers Menues and Val-Thorens, would enforce 10 measures drawn up by the French ski federation on speed limits, off-piste skiing and warning signs.

His initiative has been followed by other resorts, including Bourg-Saint-Maurice-Les Arcs, which have asked for government help to reduce accidents. In the Vosges region in eastern France, mayors have appealed for extra gendarmes or special ski wardens to patrol slopes where there is increasing tension between snowboarders and classic skiers.

Mr Cudin said he introduced the by-laws because there was no legislation enabling police to act against holidaymakers refusing to obey safety rules — unless they caused an accident. The public prosecutor at nearby Albertville, René Ternay, whose area covers Alpine ski stations such as Courchevel, said there would be a blitz on skiers who broke speed limits on beginners' slopes.

"I will be particularly severe this year," he added, speaking after a case in which a professional skier and his trainer were given a year's suspended jail sentences and disqualified from competitions following a collision which killed a 10-year-old child during a practice run.

Skiing accidents from all causes, including avalanches, lagged by 17 per cent in the 1997-98 season, injuring 41,500 people and killing 32.

The new season which began at Christmas saw record numbers of holidaymakers at all resorts. One in four French people, or roughly 15 million, went on a skiing holiday last year.

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Observers put at risk in Kosovo war

Chris Bird in Belgrade

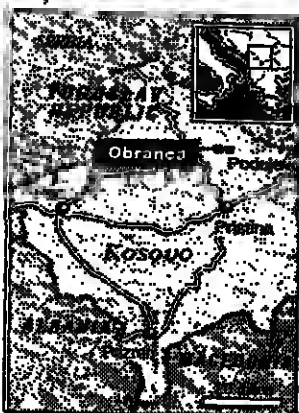
A TEMPORARY truce was agreed in Kosovo last night to move the warring sides to safety after four days of fighting threatened the future of an unarmed international observer mission.

The American diplomat William Walker voiced hope that the "sporadic fighting" could be contained without again engulfing the Serbian province in full-scale war.

Serbian forces exchanged fire with ethnic Albanian guerrillas until late yesterday around the village of Obranca, where the funeral of Milovan Radovic, a 74-year-old Serb shot dead outside his home on Saturday, was to take place.

The upsurge in violence places the unarmed observers, including 70 Britons, in potential danger. Adam Demaci, the political head of the ethnic Albanian guerrilla force, the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), said his forces had shot dead Radovic because he was part of a Serb paramilitary group which had refused to disarm.

Serbian officials said yesterday that three policemen had been wounded in the nearby village of Velika Reka when they went to the aid of an elderly Serb farmworker, who they said had been wounded in a KLA attack.



Both the Serbs and the KLA have been building up forces near the northern town of Podujevo, on the main road out of the province into northern Serbia.

"State organs are ready for a showdown with those who are endangering the integrity of the country," Zoran Djindjic, the head of the Serb provisional government in Kosovo said last week.

Mr Demaci said he would urge the KLA to continue to respect its own self-declared ceasefire, announced days before the October agreement between the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, and the US Balkans negotiator, Richard Holbrooke.

"The KLA will continue to respect the ceasefire but the

KLA also have to defend themselves," Mr Demaci said yesterday.

Mr Holbrooke forced Mr Milosevic to accept a 2,000-strong international observer mission to "verify compliance" with the deal. But the fledgling mission of unarmed monitors, now totalling about 600, deployed by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), has had a peacekeeping role thrust upon it which it is not mandated or equipped to do.

The KLA was never a party to the October agreement, and confusion reigns.

The observers, the so-called Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM), were meant to be at full strength by the end of November but contributing countries appear unwilling to send in monitors when the situation is dangerously unclear. A so-called "extrajudicial force" of 1,800 Nato troops in neighbouring Macedonia is supposed to be on hand to rescue those in danger.

But Mr Milosevic said such an intervention would be taken as an aggressive act. Officially, the 64-member OSCE says the mission should be at full strength by the end of January.

A senior KVM mission member in Pristina said: "If I were a contributing member I would be very concerned about my people coming



Kosovo Liberation Army rebels evacuate a wounded soldier in Lepostica after fighting in northern Kosovo yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH BY VISAR KRYEZHU

here." He also warned that a withdrawal would see thousands of civilian refugees on the move once more.

"If you have to leave here because our people are in

great danger what comes next will be a great snowball of violence," the observer said.

The snowball is already growing in size. After the Yugoslav army killed 86 KLA

guerrillas smuggling in weapons from Albania on December 14 and when six young Serbs were gunned down in an apparent reprisal attack the same day, ethnic

Albanian groups say a further nine ethnic Albanians have been killed. A further three Serbs have also been killed in the smouldering violence.

Bronislaw Geremek, the

Polish foreign minister and head of the OSCE, said yesterday: "If the bloodshed and violence escalate the OSCE will have to reconsider the forms of its activity in Kosovo."

Smallest of octuplets dies

Michael Ellison in New York

THE smallest of the world's first surviving set of octuplets died yesterday from heart and lung failure.

Chhindu Chikwa, nicknamed Odera, was the fifth child born to Nkem Chikwa and her husband, Lyke Louis Udobi, at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, on December 20. She weighed only 10.3 oz at birth and had always been considered the most vulnerable.

The remaining five girls and two boys, who were born 10 weeks premature, remain in critical condition in the intensive care unit.

The youngest, Gorum, underwent surgery on an intestinal perforation on Saturday. Four of her siblings are now breathing on their own but two still require ventilators. Ms Chikwa, aged 27, was in a stable condition last night.

In a statement the parents, who had been unable to have a child until Ms Chikwa began to take fertility drugs, said: "We are very saddened by the passing of our beloved baby Odera. She is now safe with God in heaven and we remain most grateful to Him for blessing our lives



The parents, Nkem Chikwa and Lyke Louis Udobi

with hers." They also thanked the hospital and added: "We also want to thank people all over the world for their prayers for our family in this special time."

But the birth of the octuplets has sparked a debate

about medical ethics. One expert, Dr Arthur Caplan, said: "We need to rethink our fascination with multiple births."

"Ironically, if a woman in America has eight babies in a row, one each year for eight years, our govern-

ment says she is irresponsible. "But if a couple has eight babies all at once, the very same government steps forward to pay for the costs of their care, and private industry is quick to volunteer assistance as well."

The family has been in contact with Wes Yoder, the Nashville agent who struck deals for Bobbi and Kenny McCaughey of Iowa, who had septuplets 13 months ago. Mr Yoder secured a new house and a bigger van for them but less has been forthcoming for the Chikwa babies.

Mr Udobi, aged 41, said yesterday: "We're going to need all the donations we can get. You can see I'm not a millionaire. I work two to three jobs to make ends meet."

"Tell the world I need a bigger house. No matter how many rooms I have here in this house, it won't be enough. I need everything. We need more furniture. I need a bigger van, one with 15 seats at least."

So far they have been promised a lifetime supply of nappies, baby wipes and training pants; a year's supply of groceries and baby milk; eight cots and car seats; and mobile phones.

Unita 'downed UN plane'

Chris McGreal in Johannesburg

ANGOLAN state radio has accused Unitas rebels of shooting down a United Nations plane on Saturday with 14 people on board.

The passengers included three Angolans, two Russians, an Australian, an Egyptian, a Cameroonian, a Zambian and a Namibian. Eight were part of the UN Observer Mission in Angola and two were employed by a private communications company, Dinacore, which was working alongside

the UN, a UN spokesman said. Fighting near the crash site in central Angola blocked the search for survivors yesterday despite appeals by the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan.

UN officials said they had no idea if anyone on board the Hercules C-130 transport plane escaped. Nor could they say whether the crash was the result of an attack, as claimed by the government.

Unita said whatever happened to the plane was the government's fault for allowing it to fly in a combat zone.

The plane burst into flames shortly after taking off from

the besieged city of Huambo. It is believed to have hit the ground about 15 miles away.

Unita laid siege to Huambo and the city of Cuito earlier this month as a four-year-old peace accord disintegrated. Rebel shelling killed more than 30 people in Cuito on Christmas Day. Nine died when a shell hit a church.

The UN World Food Programme yesterday called off all flights in Angola. The halt to aid deliveries will further burden overcrowded cities as thousands flee from Unita advances.

The accord required the

Unita leader, Jonas Savimbi, to surrender Unita's weapons and hand over rebel-controlled territory in return for his appointment as vice-president. But Unita clung to its weapons and Mr Savimbi never took up his post.

The Angolan government launched an offensive against Unita two weeks ago, but the military claims the rebels have new weapons funded by the illicit diamond trade.

Last week the UN Security Council accused Unita of undermining the peace accord and demanded an immediate end to the fighting.

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Ethiopia releases professor

Jonathan Steele

PROFESSOR Asrat Woldeyes, one of Ethiopia's best-known political prisoners, has been released and was flying to Britain last night.

The chairman, aged 70, of the All-Amhara People's Organisation (AAPO), was released to receive specialist medical treatment abroad.

Dr Asrat, a British-trained surgeon, has been a prisoner for almost a year in the hospital where he used to work. For three years before that he was held in the central prison in the capital Addis Ababa on charges of planning violent actions against the state and incitement to rebellion.

Dr Asrat was dismissed from his job shortly after he founded the AAPO when the present regime came to power in 1991.

While in prison his health deteriorated and he was transferred to the Black Lion hospital in January 1998. He took a turn for the worse 10 days ago and was moved into intensive care for observation.

It was thought he may have suffered a mild heart attack. Some years ago he had a heart bypass operation in Texas.

Welcoming his release last night, the foreign minister Tony Lloyd said: "I believe this signals a clear commitment by the Ethiopian government to uphold their human rights obligations."

Dr Asrat is expected to stay in a London hospital for a few days before going to Texas.

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e-mail

John Gittings
@ Hong Kong

THE news that Tiger Balm Gardens, once Hong Kong's most famous attraction, is to be sold and destroyed, made a Christmas expedition absolutely necessary. Years ago we used to mock at the tourist buses, the minipagoda and the hillside covered with gaudy terracotta figures and tableaux. Now the tours only go to the huge shopping complex on top of Hong Kong peak (known, inevitably, as the Peak Experience). Tiger Balm Gardens, above the racecourse in Happy Valley, has lost most of its harbour view to high-rise buildings, and there are no bontiques. Yet a visit has a calming charm hard to find elsewhere in Hong Kong. Entry is charitably free, beneath some fine old banyan trees. A few stalls sell tiny tins of Tiger Balm ointment, the magical remedy for bites, aching muscles and lumbago. It made a fortune for Aw Boon-haw 70 years ago, whose daughter, the newspaper tycoon Sally Aw is now selling up. Mr Aw's ashes are there under a marble statue. There is also a statue of his brother Aw Boon Par who "learned eternal truths from the past". The hillside is sculpted with red, blue and ochre rocks, implausible turtles, seals and a cross slithering down it. There are rampant phoenixes, elongated dragons, and of course tigers. The visitors are ordinary Hong Kong Chinese — not the upstart mobile who prefer the smart shopping malls. Everyone is taking someone else's picture: I help someone on his own, who laments the passing of the gardens. "This is a Chinese Cultural Relic," he gravely explains. We pause before a montage of the wedding between Pig and Rabbit. A faded notice explains the moral: "Even the oddest couple can marry if destiny so dictates." Ms Aw, who has financial troubles, is selling out to the even bigger Hong Kong property tycoon Li Ka-shing, who owns the adjacent high-rise.

PERHAPS there is also a predestined relationship. Mr Li, who is a friend of Beijing and an enemy of Hong Kong democracy, has long been eyeing the site. He will demolish the green-tiled Aw family mansion and build more luxury housing; the gardens will be replaced by a "theme park". I don't know whether Tiger Balm's themes will survive. At the top of the hillside there is a gloriously tacky terracotta display of the Ten Courts of Hell. Visitors are fascinated by the graphic models of heads being sawn off, entrails being extracted and bodies cast into furnaces. The Fourth Court, says another faded notice, is there to condemn "those who sell their medicine" and put children to death by poisoning with a spiked board. The Aw brothers will have escaped that fate: their ointment works wonders. But it's too late to save their gardens. Wouldn't it have been different, if they had charged entry and called it the Tiger Balm Experience?



Never mind all the sanctimonious tosh. We need a better watchdog

Peter Preston



A WEEK in politics (as Labour's most successful Prime Minister once famously remarked) can be rather a long time. So, seven days ago, Saddam Hussein was mopping his brow and Bill Clinton was still sweating profusely — while Peter

Preston was buying the last presents for his friends, and Tony Blair looked forward to a quiet Christmas with the family.

Was this, the affair of the white house in Notting Hill, the greatest crisis since records began? Hardly: the Leader of the Opposition didn't even cancel his Montana skiing holiday.

Does it, at the core, reveal New Labour's fatal fascination with men of money? Overblown tosh: Lord Kagan doled out his Gannexes, and Robert Maxwell his personal propagandists, from the heart of Old Labour (which still seems to beat its rhythms from Doncaster to the Clyde).

How can the Government have survived a tidal wave of bile, bitterness and axe-grindings? As easily, or with as much difficulty as every other government we've had since time began. Brother-

hood is the hollowest word in the lexicon. Governments are composed of human beings — and no creed imposed from on high has yet erased their flaws of humanity. Forget the sanctimonious stuff about DTI permanent secretaries and conflicts of this and that. Why over all those months, didn't Peter mention the loan to his great chum, Tony? Did they never discuss Geoffrey Robinson — even once? These were dysfunctional cronies.

Bill Clinton, under the direct pressure, keeps an uncanny cool. He parades, laughing, in public — as though his disasters were kept in a separate box. He doesn't fuff and flail down the video line to the Judiciary Committee. But Mr Blair, on yesterday's first radio surfacings, is no Clinton. He's under only modest pressure, but he grinds his teeth to stay on message. He talks of principle when, of course, it was the headlines which drove Mandelson to quit. Why not say so? Why not grieve for a close colleague thus wasted? It is the human thing to do: what makes him different from Clinton?

Reactions in adversity are what define a leader. The President of the United States balances his appalling personal frailty with unbelievable toughness. He loses key aides by the dozen and ploughs on regardless. He is the strongest of weak men — but he is no paradigm.

The strength of Blair's appeal is that he's an open, trusting bloke like us: he needs to bleed when he is wounded. It was what we do, too.

The biggest dilemma, the one which matters now, is how our Government and its Leader come to terms with the lessons of humanity — for balancing between the two white houses, there are lessons and things to be done.

We contrive codes and pass laws to control our human nature. They are often an imperfect fit — the three-ring circus of impeachment bears no relationship in common sense to the gropings of the Oval Office. And the people who matter — the ordinary folk, voters in and for democracy — know that, which is why three-quarters of them approve of this President. They have turned their backs on the machinations of political foes and the hunting cries of the press. The mechanisms

of "justice" are absurd. They have a better grasp of what fits.

Apply the same tests to the Mandelson debacle. Among the AB voters of London, the rich and the most educated, Labour enjoys a 22 per cent lead on the latest Observer/ICM poll. These are the voters who live in Notting Hill and Chelsea and Hampstead, and they have deserted the Conservatives. Are they to be shocked over a £475,000 house or a walloping mortgage? Do they remember what they told their building society years ago — apart from the promise to keep paying up on schedule? Too much outrage here becomes synthetic because it leaves common sense behind.

And do they (in just the same way) live their own lives by what the code of conduct for ministers defines as the "appearance" as well as the reality of propriety or conflict of interest?

THESE are lines absurdly drawn. They put Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter (who merely lusted in his heart, but felt compelled to confess to) in the same basket of shame. They make errors of judgment the ruin of careers. They are impossible rules for an imperfect world — ones the politicians can do something about.

Tony Blair should know this, because he is already doing something. He asked the Neill committee to look at the funding of political parties. They have, amongst other matters, advocated proper cash to maintain a proper Opposition scrutiny. That implemented, puts the lid on all the otherwise intractable problems of blind trusts and cash to keep offices like

George Brown's decently staffed. It blows the grey areas away — just as, at Westminster, the appointment of a powerful Parliamentary Commissioner has provided a clear process for the disclosure of interests. Should Peter Mandelson, as a backbecher, have registered his loan? There is a trusted way for determining that already in motion.

A logical Prime Minister would now move to re-examine his own backyard. He has his windy code of injunctions for ministers, but one-to-one it is apart from himself. The enlightened Cabinet Secretary is still summoned to the colours in perfunctory desperation; the Downing Street press machine still acquiesces in a moment then reconsiders at leisure. There is no independent examiner of what was done and what should be done. Time is the greatest enemy.

That denies a minister in a mess any reasonable hearing. It mires the Prime Minister from day one. It makes the "appearance" of headlines the supposed reality of judgement. In sum, it kills any chance of perspective.

The practical lesson of the week before last is that the appearance of perjury before a baying court of politicians is an offence against reality. The practical lesson of last week is that the question of non-disclosure without any court to examine it is an equal affront.

You can't shield your home from all the foul gales of humanity, but you can shut the windows and bolt the doors. You can do something useful. Seven more days (in the Seychelles, or Montana) ought to bring a little reflection, and then a little utility.

On the other hand, nobody will be able to explain the leader of the opposition's nomination. If what I hear is true, at the next general election the voters will have to choose between one party leader who thinks that Ivanhoe is the best book in the English language and another who believes that the dominant figure of the last 1,000 (or is it 2,000?) years is Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin. I do not mean to diminish Sir Alexander's achievement. During my sickly childhood, I was regularly treated with his sovereign remedy. But when Hague's advisers told him to name a scientist, why did they forget Isaac Newton?

It was the name that George Carey Archbishop of Canterbury pulled out of his native that gave me most concern. I am assured that his lot fell upon his predecessor Thomas Crammer who, first supported Henry VIII's petition for divorce but then, having helped to establish the Church of England, recanted. Crammer then

It could be very destructive if the US and Europe fall out in the New Year

Trouble ahead

Martin Woollacott



THE contrast between Europe and America as they enter the new year is sharply drawn. America, its political class riven by the civil war over Clinton, and some of its international policies repudiated by its allies, is much weakened. Europe, most of its governments ideologically in line and its leaders drawing together to make the common currency a success, is strengthened. The relationship between old allies, rivals, and friends is shifting. At the same time differences between the two continents in their approach to both internal politics and international affairs — differences which have been partially subsumed during the Cold War — are reasserting themselves. And the long Clinton catastrophe, combined with familiar European reactions to US policy, could mean there is trouble ahead for the most durable, reliable, and settled political axis in the world.

Whatever happens in Washington, it is hard to see the two American parties forgiving one another easily, even if a centrist solution in the Senate engenders a momentary bipartisan glow. Clinton may be history, but he is going to continue to be history: poisonous and contentious history for quite a long time to come. Americans, the political scientist and sociologist Seymour Martin Lipset has written, "tend to view social and political dramas as morality plays, as battles between good and the devil, so that compromise is virtually unthinkable".

The polls may suggest that many Americans no longer take that position, but the Republicans believe they know better, and they may be right. America's historic pattern of what Lipset calls "moral absolutism" is perhaps reasserting itself, or rather, becoming more difficult to accommodate. For the half century of the Cold War, America's crusading style was acceptable abroad, and was often suppressed at home, in the interest of the larger struggle with Communism. Now, it may be back in domestic politics with a vengeance, and who can say that a President Gore or Bush will be able to overcome it in the future? Internationally it was always present. But America's need to justify any serious enterprise abroad at the highest moral level, and its need to enlist and entice others, is less functional than in the past. Nobody could listen to the Clinton and Blair statements on the bombing of Iraq and not be struck by the necessity which Clinton obviously felt, and Blair obviously did not to the same degree, to dress his declaration in a rhetoric of high morality.

EUROPEANS feel uncomfortable with American crusading. The element of irrationality worries them, even though they see that the crusade is one of the ways in which America is motivated as a nation. Yet they are less than logical themselves. Through years of dependence, Europeans have developed techniques which both use and abuse American leadership. That leadership has traditionally provided them with an excuse to avoid agreement among themselves, since it is smarter politics to proclaim differences and then submit to being rounded up by the Americans. It has also made it possible to avoid the huge spending, the politically impossible spending, that would be required to sustain a genuinely independent foreign and security policy. Finally it has made it possible to leave Western foreign policy in the rest of the world, with all its costs and risks, largely to America, while individual European coun-

tries take advantage from intimating to key parties that they are not entirely in agreement with Washington. The difference in the coming year is that Europe is likely to be more assertive, but without really giving up its dependence on America, a combination which Washington is bound to find irritating. The Germans, for instance, have already started to argue that Nato should adopt a No First Use policy on nuclear weapons, and move faster on nuclear disarmament generally. As it happens, these are admirable proposals. But they could get lost if Nato policy becomes a contentious matter between the Allies. America's ideas for the reform of Nato, which involve Europeans agreeing, in theory, to a worldwide mission to suppress regimes attempting to acquire weapons of mass destruction, have had chilly reception in European capitals.

That mission, of course, has a clear relationship to American and British policy on Iraq. As Saddam Hussein mounts a counter-offensive to break out of sanctions, and perhaps takes provocative action in the Kurdish or Shiite areas, Washington will be narrowly watching the behaviour of its allies. America's Arab friends are in the frontline here, but it is easy to see how the policy of France and Russia, and the lukewarm attitude of the Europeans, could be interpreted as giving aid and comfort to the enemy. There is a degree of accepted playing over Iraq — partly a playing to the gallery of domestic opinion, partly a division of labour — which all the concerned foreign ministries understand. But if America's effort to deal with Saddam should end in a clear failure

Washington is watching the allies narrowly

next year, it would be foolish to imagine that America will not be very angry with those allies it feels, whether rightly or wrongly, have contributed to that failure.

One only has to peer around at the dangers with which Europe and America can only deal jointly to see how destructive this trend could become. In former Yugoslavia, young Americans and Europeans police a settlement which, for all its flaws, is better than what would have happened if Washington had not finally acted in the Balkans. Now Serbs and Kosovars may be about to start fighting again, facing Europe and the US with difficult decisions about yet another set of bombing raids, those that might be necessary to halt Serbian military movements. Difficult decisions on Russia may not be too far away. The chain reaction of economic disasters around the world has been interrupted rather than ended. Indeed the very symbol of Europe's advance, the euro, might need American help in the future. If some of the difficulties that pessimists predict come to pass. The cost of the years that were lost because of Clinton's uninspired presidency is becoming more and more evident. All the more reason, then, to understand that irrationality is evident on both sides of the Atlantic, and that Europe and America need to play to one another's strengths and not to one another's weaknesses.

Polly Toynbee is away

Our truest Brit

Endpiece
Roy Hattersley

MY local London free sheet, the Westminster Independent, has just named Nelson Mandela "Head of State of the Month", a distinction which would have caused South Africans to dance in the streets with pride had not the picture which accompanied the announcement given the impression that the head of state's head of hair is enhanced by a bright blue rinse. Ever since I saw a van which boasted "Medium-sized Domestic Plumber of 1989" (it was 1992 at the time), I have considered organising an Award of the Year of the Year Award. And at first I was annoyed to think that the coinage of annual pointless accolades had been debased by the cheap metal of meaningless monthly honours. Now I realise that it is far more sensible to nominate the man or woman who has been the

hero of the last four weeks than to choose the dominant personality of a full 12 months. The longer the period, the sillier the contest. Sadly the Today programme is asking us to nominate The Personality of the Millennium.

Being an adult of sound mind, I assumed that the contest was meant to be fun. But when I telephoned the BBC in search of more information, it became clear that the event is being treated with Reithian solemnity. The duty officer connected me to a special Millennium Personality hotline. A lady, with a voice like doom, broke the sad news that I was too late to vote. When I told her that I merely wanted to know if the great name for which Today searched so assiduously was a figure from the last 1,000 or 2,000 years, she said that she was not allowed to speak to the press but would pass me on to a colleague. I still do not know the answer to my question. For the official spokesperson — who sounded as if she normally kept

house for Dr Finlay at Tannochbrae — merely said "I am not allowed to enter into conversation" and put the telephone down.

Why is the BBC so coy? I know that the name Peter Mandelson is not allowed to be mentioned on their premises. But surely his chance of becoming Man of the Millennium has faded if not altogether disappeared. These days, my dog and I are on our morning walk when John Humphrys and

time and asked for confirmation of the candidates nominated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, William Hague and Lady Antonia Fraser. I was told that the information must remain secret — a strange injunction since the nominations had been made on a live broadcast.

According to my informants, Lady Antonia believes that Oliver Cromwell is the Personality of the Millennium. Her choice

There is really no doubt about which human being is the Personality of the Millennium. The name is obvious

Go speak to the world. So, thanks to the Broadcasting House thought police, all I know for certain is who the winner should be. Friends of mine have told me, with appropriate incredulity, the names that various celebrities have offered as candidates. Yet I cannot be even sure of them. When I phoned the BBC a second

must be applauded as a major act of reconciliation since the Lord Protector made a habit of slaughtering priests of the Roman Catholic persuasion, to which his sponsor belongs. Only cynics will suggest that Lady Antonia was influenced by the fact that she has written a biography of God's Englishman.

On the other hand, nobody will be able to explain the leader of the opposition's nomination. If what I hear is true, at the next general election the voters will have to choose between one party leader who thinks that Ivanhoe is the best book in the English language and another who believes that the dominant figure of the last 1,000 (or is it 2,000?) years is Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin. I do not mean to diminish Sir Alexander's achievement. During my sickly childhood, I was regularly treated with his sovereign remedy. But when Hague's advisers told him to name a scientist, why did they forget Isaac Newton?

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TV's hard sell to children

Rules are blandly ignored

NO GOVERNMENT as nervous as New Labour about being seen to nanny the nation is going to move against the commercialisation of children. Yet if there is a moment to strike, it is this post-Christmas period. As David Pichard, Professor of Social Policy at the London School of Economics, has pointed out, the average child on Christmas Day opens presents worth a phenomenal £250. Remember, one-third of all children — almost 4 million — are living in families on or below the European poverty line with an income of less than half the average. The reason so much is spent on toys and games is television advertising and its capacity to promote "pester power". A typical child sees 10,000 of them during 90 hours of TV viewing a year. The Advertising Standards Authority's rules, which insist "appeals to buy must only be made for suitable products which children could reasonably be expected to afford", are blatantly ignored.

Not all governments are nervous about the nanny label. Sweden and Quebec ban all TV ads aimed at children. Britain won't face the issue, even though spending on toys and children's clothes in two-parent, two-child homes has trebled in 30 years. If families have had no relief from the commercialisation of their children, there have been advances elsewhere. The budget with its £2.50 increase in benefit for the oldest child, its working family tax credit and its generous provision for childcare costs, was the best budget for children for at least two decades. There was also some welcome and much overdue redistribution with the typical family receiving an extra £250 in support, but the poorest fifth (looking after almost 4 million children) gaining an extra £500 on average from next April.

There are other ways poor families will benefit. Sure Start, which will spend £540 million over the next three years, including 250 education schemes, is designed to provide comprehensive support for children under four in seriously disadvantaged areas. New support services like Newpin, Home Start and Parentline, will flourish in these areas, providing help lines, home visitors and family centres. Pilot programmes are growing. The New Deal for Communities has spawned 17, while the Social Exclusion Unit's report on our poor-

est housing estates has generated 18 task forces to examine cross-departmental issues. Ministers deserve high praise for the improved policy co-ordination.

They should also be praised for being ready to tackle the thorny issue of "family policy". They are not trying to tell people how to live their lives, or impose a single pattern of family life, or even force couples to stay together, but they have rightly recognised that the breakdown of family life has huge public consequences which a responsible government needs to address. A Conservative opposition, which in its first year confessed it had paid too little regard to the three C's (care, concern and compassion) during its term of office, has been too ready to reject compassion this year. It should remember that even a rightwinger like Reagan, recognised the need to help poor families with his endorsement of the American headstart programme.

Serious challenges remain. Inequality has been widening again and will not start to narrow until April's changes are introduced. Even then, although poor families at work will reap much benefit, poor families unable to find work will still suffer. An easy first step would be to abolish the Tory changes to the Social Fund, which Labour lambasted in opposition, and insist all future help involves grants not loans. A

more generous benefit index than prices is needed if the unemployed are going to be helped. And Labour backbenchers should maintain their pressure for a Children's Rights Commissioner, and not be bought off with Dobbo's weak alternative: regional children's rights officers.

Office as a public enterprise, forged a workable compromise about union representation in the workplace and unleashed a laissez-faire attitude to business that, unprecedentedly, had both the CBI and the Institute of Directors lamenting his departure.

Byers at the DTI

Mandelson was shaping up well

MOST of the reaction to Peter Mandelson's resignation has focused on the events leading up to it. But spare a thought for the other casualty — the Department of Trade and Industry. Under the Conservatives its influence declined with a succession of ministers some of whom even questioned whether the department should exist at all.

Under Peter Mandelson this was beginning to change, to the surprise of his critics who expected — indeed hoped — he would fall flat on his back. He didn't. He was shaping up to be a decisive minister with a known agenda and instant access to Downing Street, a combination the DTI hadn't experienced in recent memory. In December alone, while fending off accusations about his private life, he kept the Post

Mr Mandelson had returned from visits to Silicon Valley with an American rather than European approach to business culture. He said it was all right under New Labour to become "filthy rich" and that to go bankrupt wasn't a sign of ignominy but one of the rites of passage. Suddenly New Labour had an industrial policy that would echo well in the South of England.

He failed to make clear whether any of the new riches would be redistributed to help education, health or the poor. But this is a problem not yet solved either by Labour or America.

The DTI is now facing its own Fresh Start programme with its third secretary of state in less than two years. As during the Conservative years, they have barely arrived before they are moved on. Stephen Byers, the talented Blair loyalist, now takes over, an unknown quantity with an unfamiliar portfolio. We wish him well. Industry is vital for economic regeneration and it has been left in the cold for far too long.

Letters to the Editor

Branson and the year 2000 bug

SO, the ancient 432-acre site of Penn Wood in Buckinghamshire is not to be turned into a golf course (Report, December 23). The Woodland Trust is delighted Mr Prescott has refused this ludicrous planning application. But we lament that we had to go so close to the wire. A great deal of time and money has been spent fighting this application. Planning procedures must be amended so that irreplaceable sites such as Penn Wood, which predates the Domesday Book, do not come so close to destruction again. Let us hope the Secretary of State's commendable decision in support of protecting our heritage heralds progress. Mike Townsend, Chief executive, Woodland Trust.

RENEWING my annual season ticket recently I noticed the process was being recorded manually. It seems Railtrack's ticket machines can issue the tickets, but they don't automatically record tickets that expire in 2000. New software is expected, but thousands of commuters will be renewing their tickets early to delay annual increases. Is this the first instance of the Y2K bug at work? Craig Jallat, St Neots, Cambs.

CONGRATULATIONS for not publishing on Boxing Day to avoid bringing us yet more news of Richard Branson. Chas White, Stockport.

OF COURSE we were disappointed not to reach London, but it was a great adventure to travel to Crews. C M Adelson, Lancaster

[SEE that the Pope is against capital punishment. Has he discussed the matter with his boss, who believes in the death penalty for all? Alan Robinson, Griffydham, Leicestershire.

What a delicious article on misheard song lyrics (What'd he say, December 21). No mention of Sue Lawley (So lonely — Police) or I can see Deirdre now (Lorraine has gone). Catherine Merriman, Abergavenny, Mon.

Now it's Notting Hill Gate

REPORTS of Peter Mandelson's political demise are regrettably premature (Goodbye... for now, December 24). His importance to the New Labour project is too great for his gracing the back benches to be anything more than temporary. Mandelson has spent most of the last decade and a half as a key member of an inner group which has been plotting a cultural revolution in British politics, whose full import most party members are still only dimly aware of. The New Labour rift which has resulted in his present predicament has changed nothing fundamental.

In this context Ian Aitken's comment (December 24) that Mandelson and those he represents are clearly aiming at the elimination of Labour's achievements and any hint of an interventionist state is certainly correct. However the project is equally hostile to Liberal progressivism on the Lloyd George model. It is hostile to Keynesianism and state regulation, and any element of collective welfare provision. Only the pure water of Gladstonian laissez-faire can be allowed a political future. Trevor Fisher, Secretary Labour Reform.

guilty of a breach of standards, but the Conservative Party has no standards. Have they returned the money donated by Asil Nader? Have they condemned Shirley Porter and called for her to pay the fine confirmed by the Law Society? The Conservative Party has a free of interest overdraft at their Bank, they receive interest-free loans by individuals usually not revealed and have recently been in receipt of a £1 million contribution from an anonymous donor. N C Johnson, Hook, Hampshire.

Will you be content if Peter Mandelson is found guilty only of enjoying luxuries (and the largesse of successful friends) which most of his Labour colleagues cannot? Perhaps the Guardian would have been better to have distanced itself from the bizarre and disingenuous notion that a Labour MP is in some way selling out by not engaging in solidarity opposition. Paul Lockwood, Guernsey.

ONE man lends another a sum of money to buy a house when neither was in a position of influence or power. Now that both men reached power and influence, one of them has to resign because he did not declare the loan which was a private matter between them. This has to be a salutary

lesson to anyone who aspires to be active in public life. No matter how squeaky clean you may be, if the press do not like you, any previous action you take in good faith will be used to besmirch your name. Ken Coslett, Emsworth, Hants.

SURELY the most damaging point about the departure of a spin doctor is that he resigned only because he got caught. He is not the only person to fill out a mortgage application form, but he must be the only one who cannot remember if he did it accurately and where he filed the photocopy. Sue Doughty, Woodley, Berks.

THANK you Guardian for an excellent Christmas present. There is a Father Christmas. John Tempest, Bradford.

THE Prince of Darkness reputedly used to warn opponents "we know where you live". It is deliciously ironic that his career has been scuppered by the Guardian telling us where he lives... and how he paid for it. Mike Bird, Maryport, Cumbria.

WATERGATE, Iranagate, Camillagate, Zippergate, Notting Hill Gate? Jason Hazeley, London.

by the sanctions committee. The predicted revenue from oil sales for the next six months is \$3.3 billion.

If a third of that is paid to the UN, only \$2.2 billion will be available for humanitarian assistance. George Robertson is therefore wrong to say that "Saddam is allowed to sell oil to buy as much food and medicine as necessary". Andrew Harmer, Wareham, Dorset.

Neither Mark Steel (War Sucks, 23 December) nor George Robertson mention that almost one-third of the \$3.3 billion Iraq could earn from the sale of oil is paid to cover UN expenses. Of course, Iraq's oil industry cannot produce \$3.3 billion of oil every six months: oil prices have fallen, and essential spare parts have not been approved

agreement, and deprived the people of the south of kerosene for heat and cooking. The south of Iraq is a "safe haven".

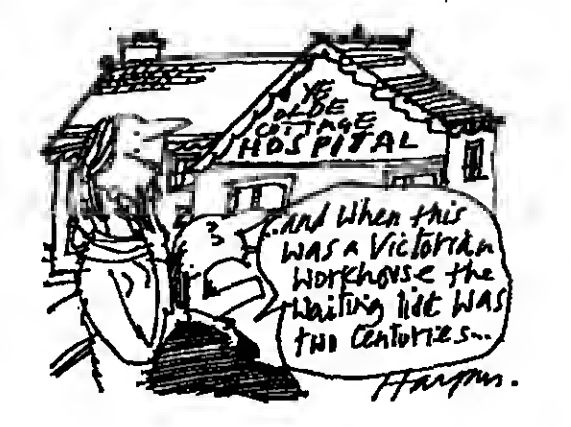
The Pentagon estimates that 88,500 tons of ordnance was dropped on Iraq, which equals 384,000 Omegas. Felicity Arbuthnot, London.

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DOES George Robertson really think that if I suspect that my neighbour is building something nasty in his tool shed that I have the right to blow it up without any specific legal authority? And if I kill some of his children in the process does he think that this is not murder? Bruce Kent, LONDON.

class ruled by the most testing master." But you have to go elsewhere to get the full flavour of Eastwood. The Times obituary, perhaps, which had him as dictatorial, power-seeking, constantly seeking to undermine those whom he thought might rival him; or the Guardian's: "He terrorised his sub-editors, however senior." Or Deedes' autobiography, where the prep-school master becomes a company sergeant major, hectoring and bullying, though always in the defence of rigorous standards.

The Telegraph, traditionally had an editor who looked after the leaders, the political features and so on, and a second, with a title like managing editor, who superintended the news. But where did one sphere of influence end and the other begin? One would bear hair-raising tales from Telegraph columns of battles for control



Nissen hut NHS worked better

POLLY Toynbee does not really distance herself from the many disparaging remarks she repeats about people who campaign for their local hospital, even if it is a ramshackle group of old Nissen huts, a pre-war fever hospital or a Victorian workhouse. I campaigned for had a two-week waiting list for out-patient clinics. In fact you saw them the same consultants who practised in the highly specialist units she is so keen on, and who were not the medical staff, "struggling to do operations beyond their

capability" she so insultingly describes.

We all may well be misguided in our loyalty and stupid in Polly Toynbee's eyes, but I have the congested airspace, with present resources, and within present environmental constraints which limit the number of night landings, there is a finite limit and we have probably reached it. Capacity both in the skies and on the ground has to be planned around what can be safely handled on a bad day, not on the good day when there is excellent visibility no wind, and no delays elsewhere in Europe. Those days are few and far between.

The tone of your article may have given a misleading impression, although you are right to highlight the pressures on the system, and how close it is operating to capacity.

Rights watch

WHAT a sad reflection on British society when we read on the same page of your newspaper of 24th December that a sad sick old man of 88 years, who came to this country for medical treatment, is denied the chance to go to church during Christmas to celebrate Catholic mass. At the same time prisoners were being released on parole from the Maze prison for Christmas and New Year.

General Pinochet may have reigned over terror in his country, but undoubtedly he has not the blood on his hands in the same way as some of those paroled. There was not much Christmas spirit when they decided this old man had to abide by the bail conditions which confine him to the home he rents on Surrey's Wentworth Estate. Was he really such a risk that he couldn't have been allowed to attend a Mass? John Corrie MEP (Conservative), Worcestershire.

SPAIN, Switzerland and France have all signalled their willingness to put General Pinochet on trial for the crimes against humanity of which he is accused. A government as strongly committed to human rights as ours has no excuse for remaining aloof. Geoffrey Bindman, London.

YOU correctly called the idea that the Bosnian Muslims were responsible for the bombing of the Sarajevo market in 1994 a "grotesque fiction" (Leader, December 22). This same idea was peddled by virtually an entire evening news programme of the BBC presented by John Simpson and aided by General Rose.

That General Rose would peddle the M16 line was (and is) self-evident. What is less clear is whether the BBC and Simpson were unwitting dupes or willing accomplices. Prof Zahur Zaman, Amersham, Bucks.

Passengers should not be afraid of flying over London — yet

YOUR article about air traffic control (Flight or fright, December 23) is timely. As the union which represents pilots who have to fly through this congested airspace, we too have expressed our concern about the ever-increasing pressures on air traffic controllers. The opening of the new centre at Swanwick is vital, but it clearly cannot be done before it is ready and fully tested. Whatever the reasons for the delay, we have to accept it will take as long as it takes — it cannot be rushed, and there are no short cuts.

In the meantime, everybody involved in the industry, including the airlines and airport operators, have to accept you cannot keep trying to squeeze more and more into the congested airspace. With present resources, and within present environmental constraints which limit the number of night landings, there is a finite limit and we have probably reached it. Capacity both in the skies and on the ground has to be planned around what can be safely handled on a bad day, not on the good day when there is excellent visibility no wind, and no delays elsewhere in Europe. Those days are few and far between.

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Flying over the UK is safe, but must be kept that way. Mike Sparham, Assistant general secretary, Balpa.

THE headline of your report gives an extremely misleading view of air traffic control in Britain. What the article did not tell people was that the number of air traffic controllers has grown faster than the growth in traffic and that an independent report commissioned by the Government recently concluded that the London Area and Terminal Control Centre (LATCC) visited by your reporters is perfectly capable of coping safely with the growing volume of air traffic.

The LATCC system has been repeatedly modernised and is among the most up-to-date in the world — when our new centre at Swanwick opens we will have far and away the most modern system in the world. In fact, UK air traffic control services are the most respected in the world. We are proud of our staff and proud of our record of air safety. Sir Malcolm Field, Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear. Please provide a reference to the relevant article.

Rogues galore

David McKie



BEFORE giving a book as a present, one needs always to look inside it, to make sure there is nothing there that is likely to upset the recipient. I followed this practice this Christmas when buying the fourth Daily Telegraph Book of Rogues — the theme of this one is rogues — for a cousin. I was also keen to discover what sort of people the Telegraph classed as rogues.

Guardian readers? Hunt saboteurs? Those who disparage hereditary peers? Or who hold table knives incorrectly? All these, undoubtedly; but perhaps there might be more... The selection appeared to be generous, going well beyond the range of accredited ne'er-do-wells, Alger Hiss and Spiro Agnew, certainly, and Bernie Cornfeld, and Nicholas Fairbairn — but also the composer John Cage, who can't have been a rogue because wonderful of him; MacGregor approves of him; and Cyril Ray, a journalist who wrote about wine and once worked for this newspaper, and Bapsy Marchioness of Winchester, who seems to have devoted large chunks of her life to battles with Ian Fleming's mother. When Bapsy saw her rival Eve Fleming press the Marquess of Winchester's thigh in 1954, the obituary says "she sued for enticement." The left-wing Labour MP Ian Mikardo

(of whom Churchill warned: he is not as nice as he looks) is here too, and the Sunday newspaper columnist Sir John Junor, whose thunderous Scottish moralising was combined with what the Telegraph's older readers would probably call a taste for the ladies. "Not so much a lover," his obituarist recalls "as a plunderer of women."

And then, in the midst of this exotic gallery, there is the obituary of just a Telegraph man, but a Telegraph managing editor, yet here consigned by the newspaper he served for so many years to the status of rogue. The obituary — said to have been written by William Deedes, who served alongside Eastwood when he was the paper's editor — hints at, rather than chronicles, the qualities which propelled him into this book. "Admired, feared," even hated by colleagues," it says, and making them feel "like a prep-school

class ruled by the most testing master." But you have to go elsewhere to get the full flavour of Eastwood. The Times obituary, perhaps, which had him as dictatorial, power-seeking, constantly seeking to undermine those whom he thought might rival him; or the Guardian's: "He terrorised his sub-editors, however senior." Or Deedes' autobiography, where the prep-school master becomes a company sergeant major, hectoring and bullying, though always in the defence of rigorous standards.

The Telegraph, traditionally had an editor who looked after the leaders, the political features and so on, and a second, with a title like managing editor, who superintended the news. But where did one sphere of influence end and the other begin? One would bear hair-raising tales from Telegraph columns of battles for control

of the parliamentary sketch, once part of the editor's fiefdom, but coveted by Eastwood on the grounds that the sketch appeared on a news page, and he was i.e. news. Deedes recalls in his memoirs how Eastwood killed one sketch, by Frank Johnson, because he thought it "unhelpful" to Margaret Thatcher. Deedes was powerless to override him, but rescued the piece and printed it on the leader page, where he was king. Once, a Telegraph man told me, he and some of his colleagues suggested to Deedes that the Guardian's Simon Hoggart was much the best man, when somebody left, to take over the sketch. Sorry the editor said, nothing doing: he guarded the slot had already been filled.

Not much of this would have been apparent to readers. They may have noted the paper's iron disciplines (eg each paragraph in a story should ideally consist of two sentences, each of 25 words)

without knowing just what — and just who — made the disciplines stick. But some others of Eastwood's foibles were apparent to close students of his newspaper. He shamelessly wangled into his news columns stories — often entirely trivial — about Burnham-on-Crouch, where he lived, extending this interest from time to time as far as neighbouring townships like South Woodham Ferrers. Not even the Burnham Bugle could have been more devoted to chronicling events at the Burnham Yacht Club. Trains running late from Burnham-on-Crouch to their London termini were ruthlessly exposed in the Telegraph's columns.

When Eastwood at last retired I wrote to the Daily Telegraph, regretting the great man's departure and hoping this would not lead to a diminution of the flow of stories about Burnham. For some reason, I received no reply.

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Cathal Goulding

The IRA's lost new direction

CATHAL GOULDING, who has died aged 75, was chief of staff of the Irish Republican Army at the end of the 1960s, during the outbreak of the present phase of the Troubles. He was therefore in a key position during a pivotal period in modern Irish history. The republican movement he led saw itself as the embodiment over generations of the aspiration for Irish unity and independence. It was striving to get to grips with a tumultuous and rapidly-changing situation in which Goulding and his allies had never expected to arise. If the political project which he tried to carry through in that period ended in failure, it was not out of personal weakness or lack of will on his part, but because of the inadequacy of his republican ideas.

Recalling his own career as an IRA activist in the days when "the struggle" was its own validation and its objective a shimmering abstraction, he once remarked that, "We didn't go out to free Ireland, we went out to fight to free Ireland". He wanted to be done with that sort of careless, fatal romanticism, and to make a practical reality of revolution in Ireland.

Goulding had become chief of staff at an IRA army convention in 1962, taking over from acting chief of staff Ruairi O Bradaigh just months after the latter's bitter campaign had ended with an order to dump arms, which was couched in the usual, grandiose terms of defiance but came across in the circumstances as a petulant whimper. By his own account, Goulding did not believe in anybody else's right to so shrunken and demoralised had the movement become.

His personal credentials were impeccable. Goulding had been an "IRA man" since 1937, when he was an 11-year-old

schoolboy, having joined Fianna Eireann, the IRA's junior wing, in the working-class area he came from on the north side of Dublin. His boyhood friend, Brendan Behan, joined at around the same time. His grandfather had been an "invincible" from the group which had famously assassinated the two most senior British officials in Ireland in 1892. His father had been an IRA soldier in the 1919-21 Irish war of independence and had taken the anti-treaty side in the subsequent split. His parents dressed themselves in the uniforms of the socialist James Connolly's Citizens' Army for their wedding.

Like many thousands of anti-treatyites in the new Irish Free State, the Gouldings found it difficult to make a living, and it came naturally to Cathal, self-employed as a house-painter, to associate his "inherited" republicanism with the idea of social revolt. The association was assumed, there being no felt need for a programmatic link. Another friend, Thomas MacGiolla, later president of Sinn Féin, has described Dublin republicans in the early 1950s watching trains arriving from the west, jam-packed with emigrants en-route to the Holyhead boat, and pressing on them leaflets which urged them to believe that the British presence in the North was the source of all their ills.

In 1956 Goulding was arrested on an arms raid to England and jailed for six years. He was later to say that prison had protected him from the debilitation which afflicted many who had soldiered through the same years on the outside. He still had the heart to take over as chief of staff on his release, and had acquired an understanding that there was no future for the movement if it did not connect with the

consciousness of the flesh-and-blood people in whose name it presumed to wage war. Goulding and the group around him — some of them fellow ex-prisoners, others former members of the Communist Party — launched the "New Departure". The new leaders did not lack for commitment, and speedily discarded the gaudy accoutrements of nationalist romance, but they never managed to break from the rigidity and elitism of the republican tradition. They rather substituted for it, unthinkingly in many instances, a different class of arrogance, clandestinity and subterfuge. The ideology underpinning the New Departure was standard-issue Stalinism. The fact that this was not spelled out in public, or even to the rank and file of the movement itself, didn't trouble Goulding. It wasn't that he was personally dishonest — although close friends say he could take a mischievous delight in his own deviousness: it was more that the Stalinist way of going about things did not strike a disciplined member of the republican movement, with its secret army calling the shots for political front-people, as particularly outrageous.

Goulding co-wrote documents put to an army convention in 1956 which defined the IRA's objective as "a democratic socialist republic" and freed members into grass-roots political action, such as fish-ins and housing action campaigns in the South and the generation of a civil rights movement in the North. He was present at the closed meeting in Maghera, Co. Derry, in 1968, at which the key decision was made to set up the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association.

However, the strategy was damaged beyond repair at the end of the 1960s by the great boom of nationalist rage

that followed armed Royal Ulster Constabulary and loyalist attacks on Catholic working-class areas — the northern state's response to the civil rights demands. Between 1970 and 1972 Goulding had no option but to tack back towards nationalism and to sanction military action against the British and the RUC, as his "Official" IRA tried to head off the development of the breakaway Provisionals. But it was not in the framework of his politics to admit that the perspectives of the New Departure — which had led to the abandonment of "Brits Out" on the very eve of its re-acceptance as a rallying-call by the nationalist masses — had been shown to be wrong.

The Officials, still sporadically involved in violence despite a ceasefire called by Goulding in May 1972, set an uneasy course which was to carry them ideologically close to the unionist camp without enabling them to expand organisationally beyond bases in Catholic working-class areas.

In his own mind Goulding never deserted the republicanism he had been part of, literally since he had been in short trousers. Never, even momentarily, did he contemplate leaving the movement to express his political ideas through an alternative. All his efforts were bent towards shifting the movement itself over, sufficiently intact. After an extremely heated exchange with a group of Northerners in the 1970s (one of many) he departed saying, in effect, "You can argue anything you like, but remember — outside this movement there is no salvation".

Seen thus, the republican movement could contain the Stalinist ideas of the New Departure just as well as the



Grave words... Goulding gives the oration at the funeral of his fellow republican Joe McCann in Belfast in April 1972

nationalist notions of traditional republicanism. The world of the movement had not been denied, much less discarded, but merely filled with a different dogmatism.

Only in that defining early period of the Troubles was Goulding at the very centre of events. But the same sense of certainty and the same indomitable persistence, sustained him through the years afterwards, through further twists and turns and policy flip-flops, as the Officials fought murderous feuds in the North in futile manoeuvres to

stave off irrelevance, while gradually adapting to bourgeois realities in the South. In 1992 Goulding and most of those from the New Departure who were still around stood firm by what they continued to identify as "the movement" — now designated the Workers' Party — when a parliamentary filibuster took the road to coalition with the button-down blueshirts of new-model Fine Gael.

Like republicanism itself, Goulding was both impossible to vanquish and incapable of victory. If he was embittered

towards the end by the bleakness which surrounded him politically he might well have been warmed by memories of a chaotically rich personal life. Strangely enough for a man who seemed not just to evince but to embody his politics, "he never brought his political ideas home", according to one member of a warm, and loving family, which extended in a number of directions.

Strangely too, in a country where political feuds can be literally murderous, and personal exchanges conducted

with poisonous passion — and Cathal Goulding himself was experienced in such things — there are many who had no time at all for his politics who will nevertheless concede that he was a most impressive man to encounter directly, and who will recall him with a sad warmth for the way things might have been in different, more rational days.

Emmott McCann
Cathal Goulding, Irish republican, born 1922; died December 26, 1998

John Pulman

Nights on the green beige table

John Pulman, who has died aged 75, was world champion in snooker's darkest days from 1957-1968. Once, after an master of ceremonies had cried "He wasn't world champion for a lot of years for nothing," Pulman replied to the effect: "Next to nothing".

English amateur champion as an unknown from Exeter in 1946, he lived at the house, with a billiard room attached, of his wealthy patron Bill Lampard, who launched him into a professional game which in those days was a post-war years was a coterie over which Joe Davis presided at the Leicester Square Hall, which had 220 seats. There were no fortunes to be made from the 20 per cent share of the gate to which Pulman soon became entitled as a leading player. Davis took 30 per cent and also owned one third of the business.

A share of the gate was more worth having for any world championship finalist since in those days the final was of never less than a week's duration — and sometimes only the best of 145 frames spread over a fortnight at the cavernous Blackpool Tower Circus.

Pulman lost the 1955 and 1956 finals to Davis but the advent of television was helping to kill snooker as a public entertainment just as the introduction of colour 20 years later was to transform its financial structure. So little money was on offer for the

1957 tournament in Jersey that Davis was not among the four entrants. Pulman won the title but promoters took so dim a view of snooker's commercial potential that the championship went into abeyance for seven years.

After its revival on a challenge basis, Pulman made five successful title defences, but when it was restored to a knockout format in 1969 he was ring rusty in comparison with new, match-hard talents from the amateur ranks like John Spencer, Ray Reardon and Alex Higgins, whose snooker brain, he said recently, "was the quickest I ever saw".

So dark had been snooker's years of depression that only a handful survived by slogging round the club and boll-

day camp exhibition circuit. "You need a map from the AA to play on this," Pulman would exclaim of one poor table after another. One club was so riled by his remarks that it filed an official complaint, stating "There couldn't have been anything wrong with the table because all our players beat him".

Having driven through atrocious winter weather he arrived at one village institute, carrying his cue case and wearing a tuxedo, to be met with the question: "Are you the snooker player?" No, he wasn't, he replied, selecting a popular four-letter word, he was the chimney sweep. Of one cheap hotel he remarked: "If you aren't in by midnight the bedbugs come looking for you." This sort of routine —

with long days to kill and many a beast of a table to be tamed — did his game no good. Convinced to a fault, he habitually drank long and late, even after snooker's tournament scene revived.

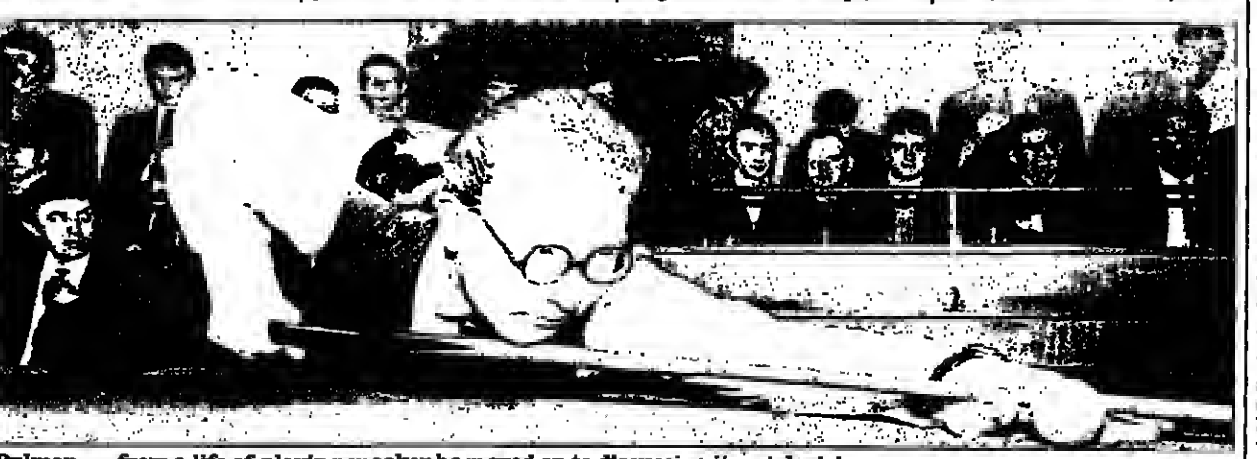
Although his standard had deteriorated, he nevertheless reached the 1970 world final, losing to Joe Reardon. Three months abstinence and some solid practice, brought his game into good shape for the 1977 championship, the first to be staged at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. He reached the semi-finals but from there his playing career went downhill. Finally, crossing the road in front of a bus, it caught and broke his trailing leg.

He never played again but, divorced after a 25-year marriage and bankrupt, he

worked as a television commentator, a role to which he brought a mellifluous voice and a life-long artistry.

He did produce one memorable quiz during a tournament sponsored by Yamaha Organs at which one of the sponsor's products was the prize for the highest break. As someone was clearing the last few colours, Pulman's co-commentator, Dennis Taylor, remarked that it was possible for him to equal the highest break. "That may be so, Dennis," replied Pulman, "but what can you do with half an organ?"

Clive Everton
Herbert John Pulman, snooker player, born December 12, 1923; died December 25, 1998



Pulman... from a life of playing snooker he moved on to discussing it on television

A Country Diary

THORPE HAMLET, NORFOLK: I went out first thing and there it was in the gutter just outside the door. It eyed me instantly and with its usual quicksilver reactions it was off, giving a machine-gun chatter as it flew. It was a magpie — the first I have seen in our road, although their encroachment upon Norwich has been a steady process in the last few years.

And it is now official: we can embrace this advance as a positive development and discard the bird's old image as a devouring monster, responsible for the collapse in songbird populations that has become so widely publicised.

A recent paper in the *Proceedings Of The Royal Society Of London* describes research into the impact of both magpies and sparrowhawks on small birds. The authors examined figures concerning 23 songbird populations and looked to see if there was any correlation between these and magpie and sparrowhawk numbers. The paper concludes that there is

no link in some places songbirds increased alongside the two predators, while in others they declined despite the fact that sparrowhawks and magpies remained constant. This may go some way to rehabilitate the sparrowhawk, but I doubt whether the evidence will alter one jot public attitudes towards its presumed partner in crime. The magpie or chatterbox is too deeply embedded in our cultural life as a symbol of bad or, at least, ambiguous luck for it ever to be embraced. It will remain one of only 13 birds that it is legal to kill as vermin. People will still see magpies in spring hauling defenceless songbird chicks from their nests and put two and two together and make five.

Our hatred of the magpie is proof that birds are more than just the objects of scientific research. They are creatures of our unreason, freighted with rich and strange mythologies. In some ways I hope they will long continue to be so.

MARK COCKER

Mark Graham

A voice for Thailand's wildlife

THE conservationist and writer Mark Graham, who died in the southern Thailand plane crash two weeks ago aged 58, fought to preserve that country's forest, fauna and wildlife which had been savaged in its dash for economic development.

Graham's soldier father made his life in Malaya. Mark, who was born in Singapore, escaped with his mother from the Japanese invasion and arrived in Britain in 1943. Educated at Fettes College, Edinburgh, he joined the Seaforth Highlanders, who took him back to what was then Malaya during its confrontation with Indonesia.

He then studied art at the British Institute in Florence, and worked in advertising before leaving for Thailand and marriage in 1966. He worked for a pharmaceutical company while trekking in Thailand and Nepal.

Once retired from business, these interests launched him as an author. His first book, *National Parks of Thailand*, led to *Thailand's Vanishing Flora And Fauna*, co-written with the highly-regarded ornithologist Philip Round and illustrated largely by Graham's photographs. It provided, in a popular format, a hard-hitting analysis of the dire state of Thailand's wildlife. Other books followed, notably a history of wood, which exposed the galling hole being knocked in Thai culture by the devastation of its forests.

Graham exploited extensive business contacts to raise funds for conservation projects, supporting research into forest regeneration by a unit of Northern Chiang Mai University. His enthusiasm for tigers led to a project in southern Thailand exploiting advanced infra-red technol-

ogy to photograph them.

Such causes also found a platform in a newspaper column he wrote under the pseudonym Nong Ngauk (hornbill), where he could voice his deep disillusion with the performance of the government's royal forest department in protecting Thailand's conservation areas as well as the "degradations of rapacious nouveau riche urbanites, bureaucrats and politicians." His vehemence was a less often seen complement to the very irreverent wit and languid charm that earned Mark affection and respect among many Thais.

Graham is survived by his son Jamie, 24, and daughter Fiona, 26.

Nick Cumming Bruce

Mark Graham, conservationist, born March 1, 1941; died December 12, 1998

'Flip' Wilson

Humour black and blue

It is a sad comment on the pioneering career of the black American comedian Flip Wilson, who has died aged 64 of complications following a liver tumour operation, that in the last third of his life his name only ever appeared in trivia quiz questions.

This decline into obscurity stemmed in part from his own decision, quite literally, to spend more time with his family. But it also reflected America's continuing ambiguity towards black citizens who manage to haul themselves into prominence.

There were few indications in Clever Wilson's early life that he might pierce his nation's racial barriers to star in one of its top-rated television shows. Nothing is known of his parents except that, at the height of the Depression, they were among the poorest of Jersey City's poor, that they could not cope with their baby, and that, as a result, he was farmed out to a series of foster homes.

At 21 Wilson took up one of the few callings likely to offer a reasonable prospect of advancement, the United States Air Force. President Truman had imposed equality on the armed services a few years earlier and the Supreme Court had just embarked on its fundamental rulings against segregation which eventually cleared away the barriers of legal discrimination against black Americans.

The young recruit soon became extremely popular with his comrades when he developed a comic routine for their off-duty entertainment. His irreverent attitudes earned him the nickname "Flip" and his success in the barracks room sparked a wider show-business ambition. He left the USAF after four years for a series of odd jobs while he polished up his act in small clubs.

Wilson's breakthrough came in 1965 when he was invited to appear on *The Johnny Carson Show*, then America's most influential television showcase. He was



Wilson... top ratings

An immediate hit and was soon making cameo appearances in other high-ranking variety shows like *The Rowan and Martin Laugh-In*. After three increasingly successful years on this circuit a star billing in a television variety show persuaded NBC to offer him his own prime-time comedy series.

Unlike his fellow comic, Bill Cosby, Wilson never tried to distract his audience from the colour of his skin. The sharply observed characters he created sprang straight from the black urban culture in which he had been raised. Though *The Flip Wilson Show* featured such important guests as Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, John Wayne, and Dean Martin, it remained essentially a one-man performance.

Wilson peopled it with the sort of characters Tom Wolfe later used so successfully for his novels. A real-life version of the flamboyant homilies of the Rev Leroy, high-powered pastor of the Church Of What's Happening Now, could be heard almost any Sunday in a thousand black neighbourhoods.

Geraldine, Wilson's bewigged, mini-skirted and high-heeled sexual predator, could equally be found on almost any street corner among the clustered soul sisters of urban America. Her

leering catchphrase, "What you see is what you get", became the theme of a popular song in 1971 and, a decade later (it then reduced to WYSIWYG), it was used as a street-wise description of the Apple computer operating system.

The success of this line, however, did Wilson a disservice: he spent his show-business career avoiding the crude sexual innuendo of later performers. The "safe" nature of his show, which went out at the family viewing hour of 8pm on Thursdays, sent his ratings soaring to second position among all America's television programmes and brought Wilson Emmy awards for both scripts and performance. More unusually, his deal with NBC allowed the show to be produced by his own company, reaping a far higher share of the income. But, just as he had achieved this splendid example for other ambitious blacks, the whole thing went sour.

In 1974 NBC pulled the plug, probably because of changing public tastes. Wilson said later that he had found the pressures too great and had made a positive decision after his divorce to devote more of his life to his five children. He subsequently refused to perform for more than 20 weeks a year, mainly at nightclubs, and, though there were a couple of attempts to revive his television career, they were unsuccessful.

After that he simply disappeared from view though some of his old shows have been running on America's cable channels. His private life became increasingly troubled by legal actions from former lovers demanding financial support and by an arrest on drug charges, which was later ruled illegal by a California court. He died after unsuccessful surgery for a liver tumour.

Harold Jackson

Clever 'Flip' Wilson, comedian, born December 8, 1933; died November 25, 1998

Birthdays

Air Commodore Molly Allott, former director, WRAP, 80; Intikhab Alam, former Pakistan cricket manager, 57; Terry Butcher, footballer, 40; Donald Carr, cricket umpire, 72; Sandra Faber, American astronaut, 54; Max Hastings, editor, London Evening Standard, 53; Lord (Roy) Hattersley, writer and journalist, former deputy leader of the Labour Party, 68; Noel Johnson, actor, 62; Nigel

Kennedy, violinist, 42; Frances Morrell, former leader, 61; Hildegarde Neff, actress, singer and writer, 73; Bridget Prentice, Labour MP, 46; Simon Raven, author, playwright, 71; Joan Ruddock, Labour MP, 55; Dame Maggie Smith, actress, 64; Richard Sudhalter, writer, jazz musician, 60; The Rt Rev Bill Westwood, broadcaster and former Bishop of Peterborough, 73.

Death Notices

MARRIAGE, Margaret Mary nee Power (Pugh), suddenly after a brief illness on 22nd December, 1998, aged 85 years. Fond and beloved wife, mother and grandmother. Requiem Mass at Church of Our Lady, Llan Gwynn, on Thursday, 2nd January 1999 at 12.30pm, followed by cremation at Colliers Green Crematorium, 2pm. No flowers by request. Donations to Llan Gwynn or to Cancer Research Fund, c/o R. P. Sweeney, 8, San Forest Road, Llan Gwynn, Llanelli, SA71 7JN, or 01773 6252.

810 To place your announcement telephone 01753 4007 or fax 01753 4007 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

John 1.50

The long goodbye, page 12

Tomorrow: The risk business

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239 9610
Fax: 0171-833 4456

FinanceGuardian

CBI fears impact of euro on sterling □ Union warns of price to be paid in jobs

Rates threat to industry

Mark Atkinson and Nicholas Watt

BUSINESS and union leaders yesterday voiced fears that Britain could be saddled with higher interest rates and unemployment if the UK stays outside the European single currency.

With the euro expected to establish itself quickly as a major world currency, many economists believe it will surge upwards against both the American dollar and Japanese yen when it makes its trading debut next month.

Adair Turner, the director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said a strong euro was unlikely to damage the euro-zone's competitiveness because 90 per cent of its trade was internal.

However, there is a danger that sterling might be dragged down by a fall in the dollar, with which it has moved in tandem for the last eight years. "If the dollar weakens, it will put a higher floor under UK interest rates," he said.

"The pound might have a year of relative stability, but we might have a sudden and significant move downwards which will make the Bank wary about inflation and be reluctant to cut interest rates."



'You need to have right policy levers, not grandiose, meaningless pacts for jobs'

Adair Turner, CBI director-general

All that we can say is that we will be in a very uncertain position," said Mr Turner.

Meanwhile, one of the country's largest unions warned that up to a million jobs could be lost if Britain stays outside the single currency zone.

In an attempt to increase pressure on Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, to set a date for British membership, the AEEU says that many inward investors will be forced to move their production bases to the Continent unless the Government acts soon.

Ken Jackson, the general

secretary of the AEEU, said that inward investors, who have created 750,000 jobs in Britain, are worried that ambivalence about the euro may jeopardise their access to European markets.

"The price of staying outside the euro is too high to pay," said Mr Jackson. "Inward investors may move overseas if the UK tiptoes around EMU."

"With over half of all our exports going to Europe, British jobs will be at risk until we join."

Mr Turner said the UK could avoid sliding into recession but the outcome would depend on the monetary policy committee, which has already cut interest rates three times since October, reducing the cost of borrowing aggressively from the current level of 6.25 per cent.

"Five per cent by Easter — we would encourage the Bank of England to have that sort of mindset," said Mr Turner.

On balance in favour of UK membership of the euro zone, Mr Turner said Britain would suffer a loss of political influence from not joining — its voice in debates on tax harmonisation and social policy would be weakened.

UK exporters might also find themselves at a competitive disadvantage to European counterparts who would no longer have an exchange rate risk to impede them.

However, Mr Turner cautioned that the launch of the single currency would not be all plain sailing.

"While greater price transparency would encourage businesses to improve their productivity and efficiency, it might simply result in higher unemployment if it was not accompanied by increased labour market flexibility."

"You need to have the right policy levers, not grandiose, meaningless pacts for jobs," said Mr Turner.

Germany stirs up row with plans for fiscal harmony

THE German government reawakened tensions between Britain and its EU partners over taxes yesterday, announcing it would use its EU presidency to push plans for harmonising fiscal policy.

Germany, which takes over the rotating presidency next week, has among the highest corporate and income tax rates in Europe and is also the biggest net contributor to Brussels' coffers.

Finance minister Oskar Lafontaine told a German newspaper that Bonn would not continue to be the EU's paymaster unless there was a breakthrough on tax harmonisation.

"One thing is clear," Mr Lafontaine told Welt am Sonntag newspaper. "There is no way that Europe can expect Germany to pay the highest net contribution but at the same time does nothing against the unfair tax competition. That is incompatible with solidarity."

Chancellor Gerhard Schröder has complained that Bonn's contribution of 60 per cent of the EU's budget or DM22 billion (\$13 billion), is unfairly high.

Mr Lafontaine's remarks were the first public suggestion Germany may link its financial support to the EU with the stalled efforts to coordinate taxes. It was also another hint that the German presidency may be marked by hardball tactics.

Chancellor Gordon Brown made it clear earlier this month that Britain was prepared to use its veto to stall attempts to set uniform rates of corporate or indirect taxes across the union.

Mr Lafontaine said the EU Commission had made two concrete proposals towards tax harmonisation. "Dismantling tax oases and taxing interest income at the same level," he said.

Germany wants an EU-wide withholding tax on savings that countries such as Britain and Luxembourg oppose.

American Notebook

Never mind the impeachment



Mark Tran

THESE should be triumphalist times for America. In foreign policy, Bill "Lone Ranger" Clinton and "Tonto" Tony Blair rain cruise missiles on Iraq, and there is little that Iraq's friends can do.

China, France and Russia can blast all they want, but they cannot prevent America from going its own way.

At home, a dynamic economy buoyed by a lenient Federal Reserve and consumers' willingness to splurge are helping to stave off global recession — in fact the economy is showing surprising resilience for a seven-year-old expansion. Living standards have reached record levels. Unemployment, inflation and interest rates fell to levels that have not been seen in a generation. The federal budget showed a surplus for the first time in 30 years.

Wall Street is edging towards a record-busting high after the summer scare.

But impeachment and the President's trial in the Senate have robbed America of any sense of exultation at being the world's supreme power. Yet the United States retains its pivotal role, despite Mr Clinton's sea of troubles — and despite the best efforts of commentators to fill the occasion with a sense of history.

Wall Street and America beyond the beltway have shrugged off the news.

If Clinton's credibility has suffered, the Republicans' has plummeted, with the party losing two House speakers in rapid order. Even when he is down, Clinton enjoys unusually good luck in his enemies' eyes.

From a special prosecutor Kenneth Starr to those southern far-right Republicans who bayed for his resignation in the impeachment debate.

The return of the Dow Jones industrial average to the 9300 level is evidence of the fundamental irrelevance of impeachment for most Americans. But as long as he can steer the ship of state and can shut out the white noise of impeachment, Clinton still enjoys broad popular support.

WHEN it was needed he showed leadership to calm the markets. Prompted by him, the International Monetary Fund came up with pre-crisis financing. His was the grating of the gravest international economic crisis since the second world war set the stage for co-ordinated rate cuts. Perhaps Clinton is one of those rare beings who thrives under pressure, and one wonders what initiatives he would have dreamed up without the distractions of impeachment.

More immediate dollar pressure comes from the ballooning deficit in America's commercial dealings with the rest of the world. The current account deficit may hit 4 per cent of output next year; anything over 3 per cent spells trouble for an industrialised country — including growing protectionist sentiments.

Any precipitous weakening of the greenback could undermine stock and bond markets as foreign investors lose their appetites for US assets. By dumping dollar assets, they could prick the stock market bubble — one of the main reasons behind the consumer spending binge. A significant weakening of the dollar would also lessen the Fed's room for manoeuvre in cutting interest rates, as the weak dollar creates increased dollar pressure.

Brazil could provide the next market shock. Despite an IMF package it is heading for a devaluation — which could trigger a trigger devaluation in China. With challenges like these, a Senate trial is the least of Clinton's worries.

Rescued hedge fund partners could get \$50m

Mark Tran in New York

SHOULD the partners of Long-Term Capital Management, the hedge fund which almost collapsed three months ago, collect hefty fees now that the fund is making money again?

This is the question facing the consortium of 14 banks and brokerage houses that rescued the hedge fund run by John Meriwether and the Nobel laureates Myron Scholes and Robert Merton. Mr Meriwether and his partners stand to collect as much as \$50 million (\$20.75 million) in "performance fees" at the end of the year. The pay-out will come from the profits made in the fund by the consortium and the size will depend on the fund's value at the end of the year.

As of the end of November, the \$3,625 billion (£2,158 billion) invested by the bail-out banks and securities houses in late September had increased in value by about \$400 million and the markets in which LTCM is active have been relatively stable this month.

It marks a dramatic change from the situation a few months ago, when the Federal Reserve intervened to orchestrate a rescue of LTCM on the

grounds that its collapse would send shockwaves through the global markets.

Such a pay-out to Mr Meriwether and his partners could spark a furor among critics who thought that LTCM should have been allowed to go under. Some congress members are also bound to wonder whether a group that nearly precipitated a crisis of the international financial system should be so handsomely rewarded.

The consortium, which includes Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs and the Salomon Smith Barney unit of Citigroup, may be reluctant to see huge sums paid to the lead partners.

Any pay-out to the partners would have to be approved by the consortium and a separate oversight committee composed of five bank representatives. The rescue package stipulates that the partnership running LTCM is entitled to 15 per cent of all profits of the new money after the fund generates a certain return. Although that formula is lower than the 25 per cent share of profits, the LTCM partners used to get, unless the fund falls in value by the end of December, it will still amount to roughly \$50 million under the rescue agreement.

Japan accepts blame for crisis

Tom McGhie

IN A STRIKING admission of error, the Japanese government released a report yesterday blaming official inaction and delay during the past decade for triggering the country's deepest recession since the second world war.

The year-end report, produced by the state Economic Planning Agency, details government and private firms' failure to come to grips quickly with the collapse of the speculative "bubble" economy of the 1980s.

The troubles left over from the bubble — when real estate and stock markets soared to dizzying heights only to crash during the early 1990s — have plagued the Japanese economy "more than expected", the EPA said.

The collapse in asset prices left behind a massive debt problem, that has hobbled Japan's financial system. But instead of moving quickly to resolve the bad loans, government and bank officials decided to "leave the embarrassing problem untouched" and hope for a recovery in prices, the report said.

That recovery never came. Instead, the burst of the bubble brought a combined capital loss of \$40 trillion yen (\$7.2 trillion) between 1990 and 1996 to businesses and households

— about 1.7 times the nation's gross domestic production during 1996.

The capital loss pulled down Japan's GDP growth rate by an average of around two percentage points each year in the period between 1991 and 1996. The negative effect on the GDP growth rate diminished to about 0.8 points per year from 1994 to 1996, the EPA said.

The losses strangled consumption and triggered Japan's worst recession since the end of the second world war. The economy shrank for the first time in two decades last year, and unemployment in November was at a record high of 4.4 per cent.

"The slow handling of the bad loans problem has caused various serious problems," a summary of the report said — including the credit crunch that still troubles many private companies.

The EPA pointed to several reasons for the failure to take rapid action: optimism that prices would recover; uniform delay by banks dealing with bad loans; a lack of a system for bad-loan disposal; and a lack of transparency in the financial system as a whole.

In order to overcome the current economic slump, the EPA said Japan must purge itself of the "aftermath of bubble economy".

Big chill in California



Icicles cling to lemon trees in Santa Paula, California, last Wednesday morning. Agriculture officials say another night of sub-zero temperatures could destroy the state's half-billion dollar crop

Orange and lemon crop wiped out in the Golden State

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

California citrus farmers were trying to rescue the last of their fruit yesterday as a week of unusual freezing weather inflicted \$600 million of damage, wiping out a quarter of the lemon crop and more than half the oranges.

Thousands of migrant

workers from Mexico who depend on the annual winter harvest are now without work, and many farmers have lost their fruit. Although farmers in Florida and Texas escaped the freeze, losses in California, where some citrus is exported to Britain and Europe, will cause higher prices as wholesalers have doubled or tripled prices.

The Golden State's \$1.5 billion crop produces 90 per cent of America's lemons, and 80 per cent of oranges eaten as fruit. Florida's crop is also likely to be down from 244 million boxes last year to 190 this year because of earlier cold weather.

In California's central valley, where most of the crop is grown, winter temperatures do not often dip more than a couple of degrees below freezing. But last week the thermometers plunged to around 20 Fahrenheit, causing the juice to turn to ice, pop the skin and ruin the fruit.

Hundreds of farmers spent a sleepless week carting giant propellers powered by diesel generators to their orchards in the hope that the wind they created would blow away the frost. But efforts were overwhelmed by the worst freeze since 1990 when the state lost \$900 million worth of citrus.

Harvey Bailey, a grower with 4,000 acres in the valley, reported that 90 per cent of his crop had been ruined just as he was preparing to harvest. He stayed up all night in vain on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day but determined to carry on. "I might save a bit," he sighed.

If some of the fruit is saved before it decays, oranges can be processed to add colour to Florida's juice production, and the rinds may be ground up for use in fragrances. But growers would receive only a few pennies on the pound instead of the normal \$1.42.

Yesterday California was warmer and the forecast was fair for the next few days.

BAe in £100m deal with RAF

British Aerospace has won a £100 million contract to supply 80 replacement fuselages for the Royal Air Force's Hawk T1 Mk1A aircraft.

Bae will act as prime contractor and be responsible for the design, development and manufacture of the new fuselages.

As a sub-contractor to Bae, RAF St Athan will disassemble the aircraft and return the fuselages to Bae for incorporation of the new structure.

RAF St Athan will carry out reassembly with delivery to the RAF expected to begin in 2000.

The Hawk entered service in 1976. It is used for training and is also flown by the Red Arrows aerobatic team in their displays.

News in brief

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Engineering companies fared better than other types of manufacturing with output up by 3.4 per cent for the first ten months of the year, according to a report published by the Institute for Manufacturing.

The report calculates that manufacturing as a whole managed to push output up by just 0.4 per cent over that period.

But the Institute also warns that the strong pound is likely to depress exports, which are

especially important to engineering and chemical firms.

Daimler cheer

DaimlerChrysler AG reported a significant rise in 1998 earnings and said next year's results would show the benefits of the £42 billion merger which formed the world's fifth-largest car manufacturer in November this year.

The group said initial estimates showed revenues rose by 13 per cent to DM280 billion in 1998 compared with 1997.

The parent company is also reported to be preparing to bid with News Corp for the rights to broadcast Italian soccer.

The deal could see News Corp and Telecom Italia compete head-on for soccer rights against Telepiù, the pay-TV company which is owned by French media group Canal Plus and the state broadcaster RAI.

Murdoch on ball

Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation is poised to buy as much as 80 per cent of the Italian pay-television company Stream for \$118.9 million.

Telecom Italia, the parent company, is also reported to be preparing to bid with News Corp for the rights to broadcast Italian soccer.

The deal could see News Corp and Telecom Italia compete head-on for soccer rights against Telepiù, the pay-TV company which is owned by French media group Canal Plus and the state broadcaster RAI.

The single currency

'The British people have been kept in the dark, while those who speak the truth are denounced as scaremongers'

Sir Stanley Kalms



Birth of the euro

For the first time in 70 years, the US currency has an equal competitor. **Martin Walker** in Vienna starts the final countdown to monetary union

Dollar given a run for its money

TO be part of the European project has always been like living on a glacier. At any given moment nothing seems to be moving. But look around after a year or a decade and the progress and the power behind it become awesome. The birth of the new single currency on January 1 will be such a moment.

Its power to transform Europe's political and economic landscape has already been made plain. The ring of confidence that now surrounds the euro zone, protected the usually vulnerable currencies like the lira and peseta during this summer's financial panic when Japan trembled and the Russians defaulted on debt.

Britain's decision to take its most profound integrationist step, with the October proposal for a common European defence policy, was a response to the fear of marginalisation induced by exclusion.

Those two developments are of serious importance. They begin to address the great oddity of the European project: it has always been a trading and economic block of huge power, but has acted like a strategic and diplomatic pygmy. Europe now has the opportunity and the weight to assume an equal role with Washington in global financial management, and an increasingly serious one in security affairs for Europe

and its strategic hinterland in the Middle East, North Africa and the Caspian oil basin.

There is much more to come from the tectonic geopolitical shifts involved in the emergence, for the first time in 70 years, of a second international reserve currency to stand alongside the dollar.

Nearly two-thirds of central bank currency reserves and bond issues are denominated in dollars, along with nearly three-quarters of world trade. Over the coming years the euro will start taking an ever more equal share.

The Institute of International Economics in Washington reckons that up to a trillion dollars will shift from the US currency to the euro, a process which had better be slow and carefully managed or mass sales of dollars could send currency markets into chaos.

In any event, the pressure on the dollar will be fierce, because it is based in an economy which has a balance of trade deficit of close to 3 per cent of GDP. Euroland, by contrast, enjoys steady trade surpluses.

This means it will be on a kind of probation, as the central banks of Asia and the rest of the world decide which currency they want to hold and corporate treasurers choose which will be the cheapest and most stable currency to borrow.

This competition will rein-

force the Treaty requirement of the new European Central Bank to run Europe's monetary policy in a highly orthodox and anti-inflationary manner. Both dollar and euro will be driven to seek to manage their currencies, their interest rates and their underlying economies in such a way as to avoid markets imposing inflation penalties on them.

At the same time, the emergence of a single currency in Europe's single market, with a common interest rate, will inevitably lead to increasing economic co-ordination across the board. Government will not necessarily lead this process. Europe's trade unions are already preparing for joint cross-border collective bargaining, with the euro making it clear to Spaniards and Italians how much less they earn per hour from the same employer than their German colleagues.

Already Italian banks and firms in the home loan market are reeling under the competition from Britain's Abbey National, which is offering far cheaper mortgages to Italians. German supermarkets are gearing up to face a massive challenge from the world's biggest retailer, the US Wal-Mart chain. French and German banks are bracing for the competition of Visa and Barclaycard and American Express. With far more savings than the US, and half the total amount of stock capitalisation,

Europe is poised to be the growth market for financial services.

On the gloomy side, there are three entirely predictable crises lying in wait for Euroland. The first could come quite soon in Ireland, which has cut its interest

rates to the standard 3 per cent, even if its GDP growth continues to soar at more than twice that level. Ireland has made borrowing cheaper just when all theory and practice says it should be making it more expensive. This could lead to the first shock, in

which one part of Euroland suffers a crisis because of the broader economic policy required by the rest.

The second crisis will be political, and will come as and when Britain has its referendum. Britain will have difficulty finessing the current

legal requirement of two years of currency stability inside the exchange rate mechanism, particularly if euroland by then has adopted some tax and other harmonisation measures that raise the threshold for new entrants.

The third crisis cannot be predicted with precision. But a new global financial crunch will come at some point, perhaps in Brazil or in Asia again if China is forced to devalue.

The question then will be whether Euroland has agreed to field an equivalent of the US Treasury secretary to take day-to-day responsibility for the political management of the crisis. Until it does, Euroland will be deploying power without responsibility.

Because these challenges are predictable, there will be no excuse if euroland fluffs them.

Nor will Europe's electorates, grappling with a new currency for two years before they get the banknotes and coins which embody it, prove forgiving if sluggish growth keeps Euroland's unemployment level above 10 per cent. The euro, and the orthodox bankers who control it, will take the political blame.

The first problem is that the benefits of the single currency are long-term, whereas the crises will be immediate. And some of the benefits, like downward pressure on German wages and upward pressures on Spanish ones, may not be easy to sell to

Europe's voters and employers.

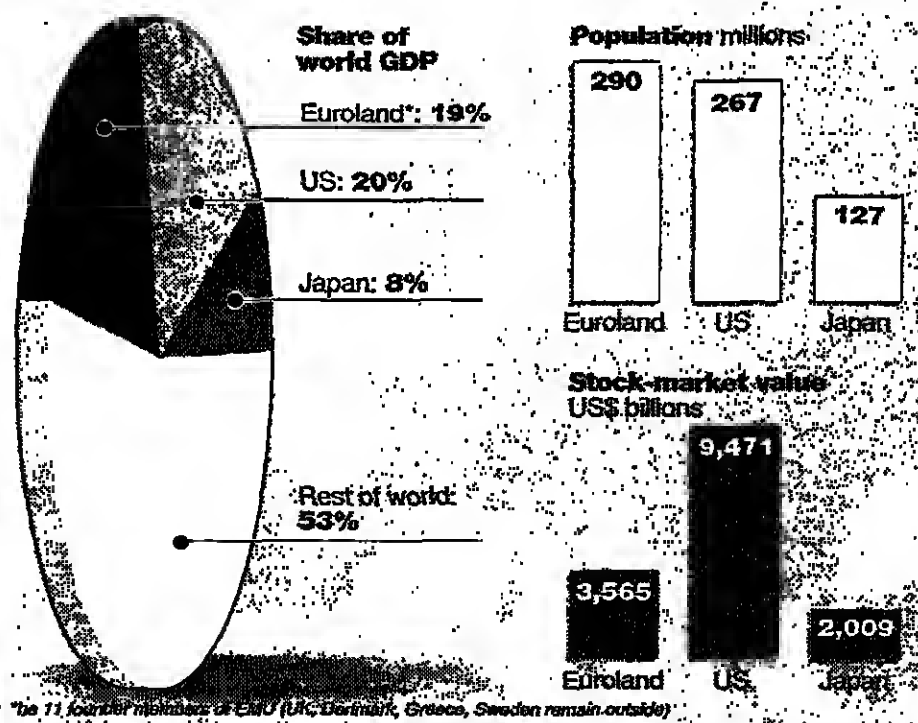
Second, all this is coming at the same time as Europe's leaders gear up for a battle between Northern and Southern countries, between net payers and net recipients to the EU budget. Powerful voting lobbies like farmers look set to lose something like £10 billion a year under farm reform.

Finally comes the American problem, where seven boom years will at some point come to a close. America expects a lot from the euro in sharing the burden of global economic management, which means helping Russia and Asia to recover by buying their exports. America also expects a lot from that other sign of the new Europe, a common defence policy which could at last let Europe handle its own security problems without crying for the American nurse.

The European glacier is gathering momentum, crushing not just powerful currencies like the franc and mark, but national self-interest and pride, just as politicians lose much of their traditional power to chart the economic course their voters may demand.

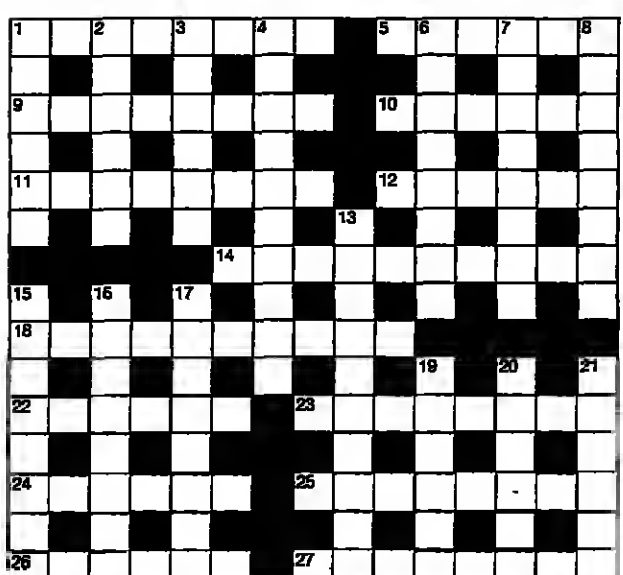
And forget about trying to vote out the head of the European Central Bank. Like a glacier, he is too cold and remote to notice.

Euroland: a force to be reckoned with



Guardian Crossword No 21,467

Set by Cnsps



Across

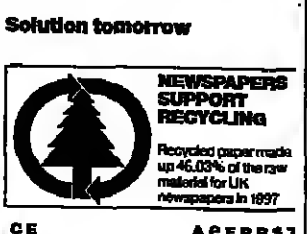
- Contest that's in the bag! (4,4)
- Twin Greek characters, affectedly stylish (8)
- Designed as escort vessels (8)
- Quivering like a fish (8)
- No longer cared for, being so lengthy (8)
- Field marshal having block about famous victory (6)
- A quiet writer takes chances writing such supplements (10)
- The paper-seller never downs rum (4-6)
- Blunder in shamed to get a drink (6)
- He's sorry after taking in people generally (6)
- Despicable party reneging on promises to pay (6)
- Disruptive quartet one's seen in a disreputable place (8)
- A person plaguing the bank? (6)

Down

- Natural but trendy fellow, broke (8)
- Struck with hose (8)
- Wild cat — she must be restrained (6)
- Deserving severe criticism (6)
- Agree to maintain connection (10)
- Spare the married guys (8)
- The man who's made clear possibly a quarter go to church (8)
- A perfectionist's fancy table (8)
- Put on a diet not properly constituted — blast! (10)
- A single ceremonial symbol of authority should be kept (4,4)
- All-in cleaning operation (8)
- A proposal to provide public with running water (8)
- Exercising iron rule, which is really catty (6)

20 The high-minded individual

- 20 The high-minded individual surmounting general discord (8)
- 21 Backing up military personnel and others making good (8)



Why I love the euro Lord Hollick



Lord Hollick is chief executive of United News & Media. He resigned recently as adviser to the Department of Trade to push the single currency

IN JUST five working days 11 of our partners in Europe will launch the single currency — one of the great shaping events of our times. Britain remains a salt-water fortress. But it is clear that although you can keep Britain out of the euro, you can't keep the euro out of Britain.

When you're going to work out what's happening in an old journalistic adage is to follow the money. In this case, our banks are already offering euro accounts or even mortgages. Businesses are ready to trade in euros, and all the surveys show a huge majority in favour of early membership.

That is because most understand that Britain will enjoy a more stable, com-

petitive and prosperous future inside the single currency than we would huddling in its shadow.

Stable? Well, joining the euro certainly means we would steady our interest and exchange rates. Just think: sterling has varied against the mark by over 40 per cent since late 1995, while our interest rates have been twice as volatile as Germany's this decade.

Greater stability means business can concentrate on what it does best, instead of wasting time struggling to control these financial risks.

Competitive? Joining the euro means we cut the cost of doing business. Our competitors in the euro-zone will trade freely without

currency exchange transaction costs. British firms still spend £2 billion a year on transaction in Europe; a huge "trade tax" which would be abolished at a stroke if we joined.

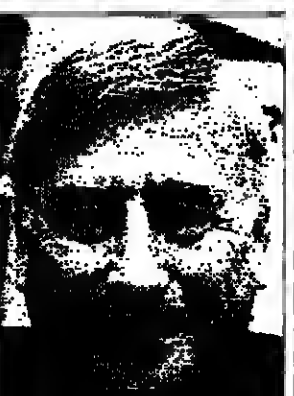
Finally, joining the euro would mean a more prosperous future: we would again be full members of our most important export market — the average German spends four times as much on UK products as the average American.

Export sales, of which we need more to thrive, would translate as jobs and prosperity for UK families. Outside the euro business will find it harder to keep up, and multinationals might look elsewhere to build new factories.

Yes, of course, joining the euro has its risks; that is why we are not joining on day one. But the euro is no longer something to argue about in the abstract. It is here now, and is going to change all our lives whether we like it or not. But business, at least, knows that it is likely to work effectively.

If it does, Britain's clear national interest lies in joining as soon as is practically possible — because every extra day we hesitate will cost us more. I believe staying out will mean losing out. The UK debate has been polluted by the politics of fear. People haven't had the hard facts, and some of us are determined to tolerate that no longer.

Why I hate the euro Sir Stanley Kalms



Sir Stanley Kalms, Dixons' chairman since 1971, is a staunch eurosceptic and campaigner on the dangers of the single currency

IKE many — including, I suspect, Tony Blair — I have listened with amazement to the honesty with which the German finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine, announced the realities of entry into monetary union. He has told the European electorate that, for the euro to succeed, a unified tax structure is a necessity. To the federalists this will come as no surprise. Monetary union is a vital step towards the initiative of full-scale political integration.

Its architects — Kohl, Mitterrand, and Delors, saw the euro's economic impact as a means of strengthening the supranational institutions of the European Union. Thus eco-

nomomic and monetary union is not only intended to improve Europe's economic efficiency but to change the way it is governed. It is important to analyse the consequences of an initiative established for a more fundamental objective — total political union and the end of our nation state.

The success or failure of the single currency is dependent on its stability. Automatic fiscal stabilisers are essential if the currency is to react strongly to the erratic behaviour of other currencies. This is almost impossible without centralising some taxation. This enables the creation of the fiscal stabilisers required, and therefore ensures that weaker countries suffering

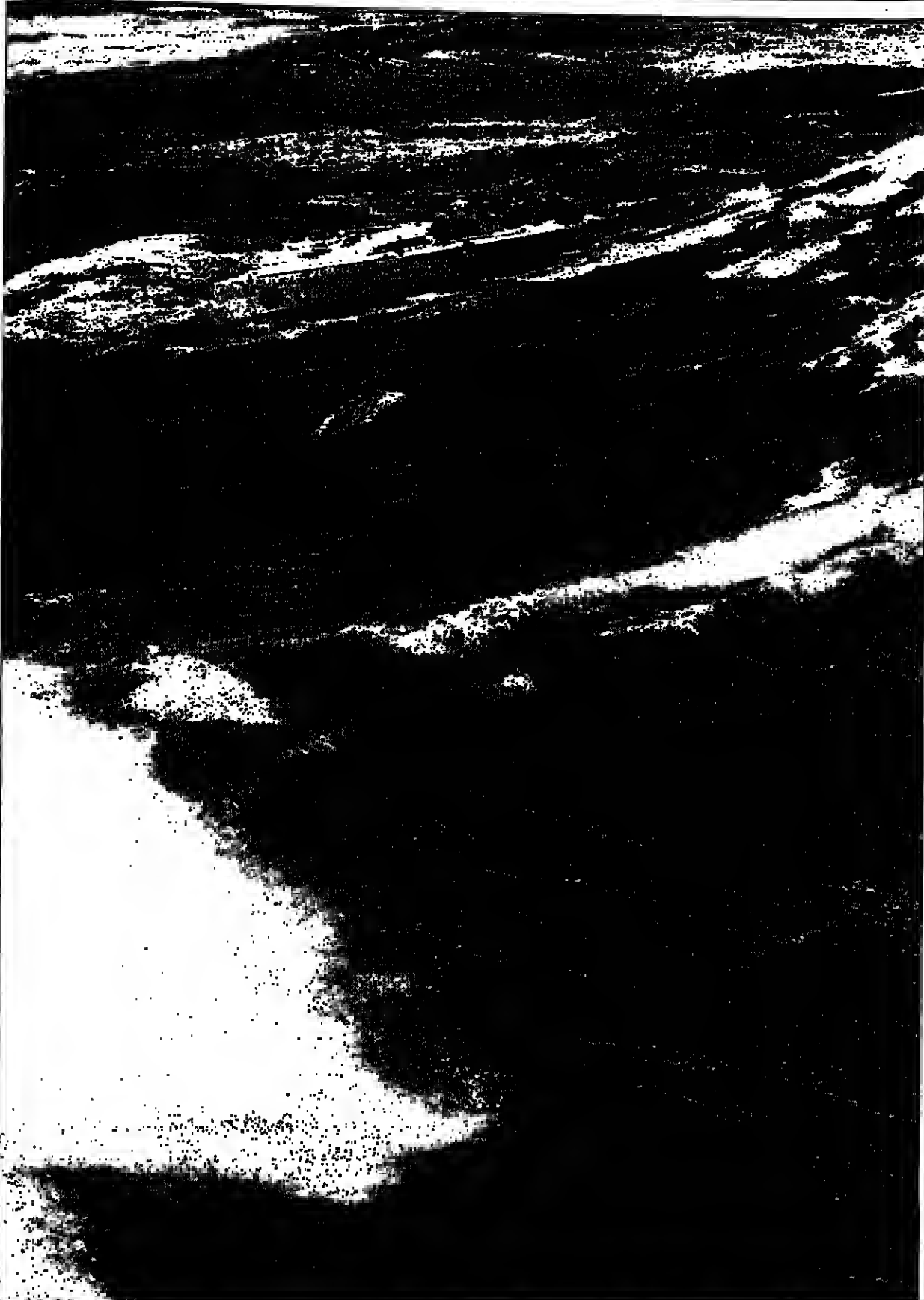
an economic downturn will receive the tax relief they need at the expense of richer countries. This is a similar system to that now in operation in the United States. Although this has not been adopted at present, European federalists have always accepted partial centralised taxation as vital to the single currency's stability. Under the current system the euro 11 will partake in a unique experiment where economic stability is dependent on other options only marginally less repugnant than being part of a unified tax structure. For instance, it is possible that in a depression Britain will be forced to devalue its workforce instead of its currency to

make it more competitive. Lafontaine's words reflect the hidden agenda and reveal the hierarchy of common taxation.

Essentially, entry into such a system would hand over the reins controlling our economy to a remote, centralised bureaucracy over which we can have little influence. The British public have been kept in the dark, while those who speak the truth are denounced as scaremongers. The truth is out, and I welcome an honest and open debate. I do not believe the population of Britain shares the views of our European neighbours; we wish to keep our autonomy — over taxation and over our political destiny.

1501 010

Boats capsize in Sydney-Hobart Race



All at sea... Stand Aside wallows in the Bass Strait waves, a life-raft in tow, having lost its mast in the 70-knot winds which struck the 115 entrants less than 24 hours after the start of the race

A day after leaving Sydney Harbour (right), the competing yachts were confronted by a fierce gale sweeping through the Bass Strait



Report by
Bob Fisher

Briton missing as gales lash fleet

THE British Olympic yachtsman Glyn Charles has been lost overboard, feared drowned, after the 45th Sward of Orion, on which he was crewing, was flattened and rolled over by giant waves and galeforce winds during the Sydney-Hobart Race.

Charles was washed clear of the boat from the cockpit and, despite an immediate helicopter search in the treacherous Bass Strait, he was not found by the time darkness fell. His body was recovered by a RAAF Orion aircraft from South Australia.

The crew of the Winston Churchill have abandoned the ship and are missing, believed to have taken to their life-rafts.

Charles represented Great Britain in the Star class at the Olympic Games in Savannah, Georgia, in 1996 and was a former Laser National Champion.

He had previously sailed with the Orion skipper Steve Kulmar in the Australian Admiral's Cup team in 1997. Other crew members of the Orion were taken off the boat with a catalogue of injuries including a broken leg. Fierce gales whipping into the Bass Strait have wreaked havoc with the fleet. Boats have been rolled over, some dismantled and crewmen washed

overboard. One boat with nine crew aboard was missing when the Radio relay vessel Young Endeavour went to her aid in answer to a Mayday call, while a helicopter was unable to find Winston Churchill which had requested assistance.

The Australian Marine Safety Authority in Canberra was co-ordinating the rescue operations in appalling conditions but was forced to call off fixed wing support last night. It was expected to continue at first light with three helicopters, augmented by an RAAF Orion aircraft from South Australia.

Winston Churchill is one of the nine yachts which took part in the inaugural Sydney-Hobart race in 1945. The 62-foot cutter was racing in its 18th "Hobart" and had recently undergone complete restoration.

Several members of her crew, led by the owner Richard Winning, had undertaken more of these 630-mile races than the boat.

The alarm over Winston Churchill began when a distress message from the boat indicated that she was "taking water heavily". Her radio operator said the crew were preparing her life-raft — a decision not to be taken lightly as it is usually safer to stay with the boat than take to a life-raft, which should be used only in the direst of emergencies.

The Race spokesman for the organisers, the Cruising

Yacht Club of Australia, said early this morning in Hobart: "We are very concerned with the situation regarding the Winston Churchill. When Young Endeavour reached the rendezvous area, there was no sign of the boat or a life-raft."

The brigantine training ship, a 200th birthday present to Australia from Britain, continued to search until dark and will resume the search at first light.

Severe gales hit the fleet as it began its crossing of the Bass Strait, which separates Tasmania from mainland Australia. The race leaders, the two maxi-racers Larry Ellison's Sayonara and George Snow's Brindabella, were initially aided by favourable north-easterly winds and were well inside the course

record set by Hasso Plattner's Morning Glory two years ago. But a vicious change in the wind, with gusts screaming to 80 knots brought about by a very deep depression, has almost certainly put paid to record breaking and made it totally a matter of survival for the smaller boats.

Huge seas, towering almost to the mastsheads of the small fry, the 30- to 35-footers, have been able to turn some boats over, rolling them through an unpleasant 360 degrees and washing their crews from the comparative safety of their cockpits. John Campbell was separated from the 38-foot Kingarra for 40 minutes but later recovered by a police helicopter using a heat-sensitive searching aid.

All 12 members of the crew of the 40-foot Stand Aside, skippered by James Hallion, were taken off by helicopter after the yacht was dismantled. Several of the crew were injured, one losing fingers and another with head wounds.

Another dismantled yacht, the 41-foot B-52, skippered by Wayne Millar, also suffered structural damage when the mast collapsed, and was taking water. It was still missing last night.

The America's Cup skipper Iain Murray was another in trouble, forced to turn back with rudder damage to ABN Amro.

Winds had last night "moderated" to 40-45 knots in the Bass Strait.



Look over your shoulder, Mrs P. **Chris Hawkins** sees a challenger to Jenny Pitman emerge from the King George VI Steeplechase

Williams puts pursuers through the Mill

IT WAS Lester Piggott who reportedly shouted the words, "Move over, granddad, I'm coming through" when asking Gordon Richards for some racing room at Ascot one day in the early Fifties. Whether he actually said it matters not; the prophetic line has passed into sporting folklore.

Now Venetia Williams would be top modest to even think such a thing but some might be tempted to say it for her after the victory of her Teeton Mill in the Pertemps King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day.

For this remarkable young woman from Hereford seems well embarked on the process of shifting several "grandfathers" and one notable "grandmother" from the top of the National Hunt training tree.

Jenny Pitman's reign as the leading woman trainer is definitely under threat and although Martin Pipe's huge seasonal totals will never be eclipsed, Williams has a strike rate that puts them both in the shade.

Of course Mrs P is still ahead when it comes to the big races, with a haul of two Cheltenham Gold Cups, two Grand Nationals and a King George, but Teeton Mill

looked so superior to the opposition here that he could well go on to win both this season's remaining premier steeplechases.

The key to the success of this former hunter-chaser, who will be 10 on New Year's Day and has taken his time to come to the fore, is his jumping which is almost as spectacular as these two other great greys and multiple King George winners Desert Orchid and One Man.

Norman Williamson, his jockey, partnered Master Oats to victory in the Gold Cup and compared Teeton Mill favourably to his 1995 Cheltenham winner.

"He can stand off his fences or get in close and fiddle," Williamson said. "He reminds me very much of Master Oats who might not have seemed to be going that well on the first circuit but halfway down the back just as the others were starting to struggle would suddenly get into top gear."

"We always thought this horse needed faster ground so what he'll be like when he gets it is anybody's guess."

Teeton Mill did not come to Williams until last April having been bought for what she thought was an "expensive" 40,000 guineas by Stephen Winstanley, the mastermind behind "The Winning Line" tipping service.

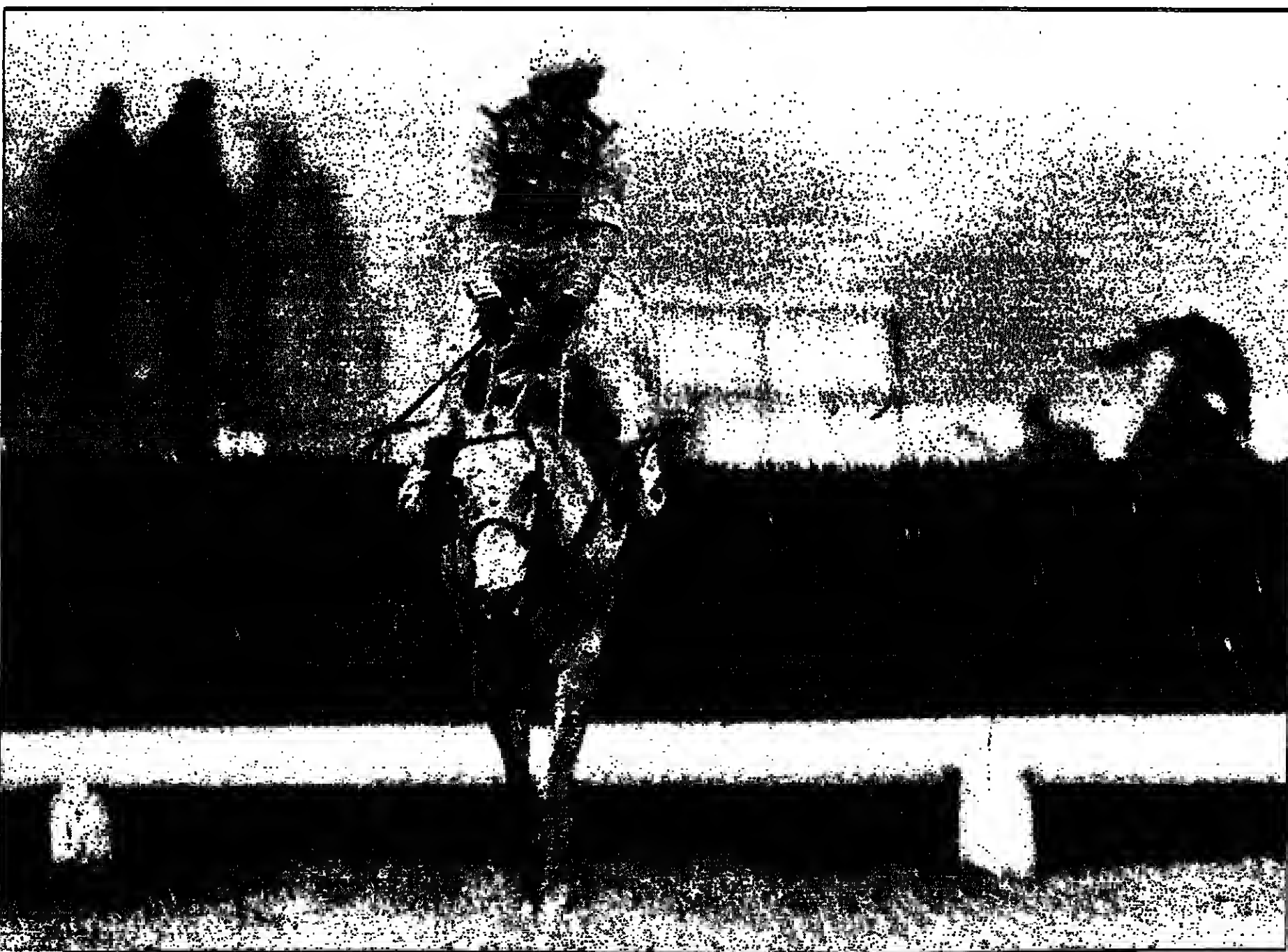
"He'd had leg trouble and as a nine-year-old I thought they had paid plenty for him," said the trainer. "But he had been with Caroline Bailey and had done a lot of hunting and knew all about jumping so I was delighted to get him."

"But I never thought he was this good and I even remember saying that I thought the handicapper had given him too much weight with 10st 5lb in the Hennessy. Now it looks as if he could have won that with another two stone."

"The original target was the Grand National and he's still a possibility for that even though he's bound to have a lot of weight now. He'll definitely be entered as he's not a young horse and you don't know what's round the corner."

The Gold Cup is next but I'm not sure whether or where he'll have another run before that.

"He's an easy horse to train



Venetia's blinder... Teeton Mill, trained by Williams, clears the last with poise en route to winning the main event at Kempton Park on Boxing Day

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARNON



Stormin' Norman... Jockey Williamson leads Teeton into the winner's enclosure

and I ride him a lot myself. He's such a good jumper that I don't school him."

"He didn't jump a fence between the Hennessy and today's race. I rode him in his final piece of work. It wasn't that I didn't want anybody

else to know what was happening but so that I'd know myself."

This perhaps gives a little insight into the way Williams works. Modest and shy on the outside, she is said to be something of a chameleon.

Apparently she knows her own mind, makes sure she gets her own way and does not suffer fools while standing fast refusing to divulge her age. Not quite the delicate flower she appears perhaps. She learned the training

ropes as secretary and assistant to John Edwards, of Pearryman fame, and then after a year as assistant to Martin Pipe set up on her own three years ago.

Her 60-box yard is now full and her success has surprised

her. Quite why she is so good she does not know but she says getting decent horses in the first place is the key. Rather like Pipe, who revolutionised the game, her method is based on interval training — she has a five-fur-

long uphill gallop and the horses go up twice.

Trainers come and go but one has the feeling Williams is here to stay. Make room for an emerging talent.

Holiday racing, page 14

Racing

Chris Hawkins believes the in-form Nicky Henderson can continue his winning run with victory in the Welsh National.

All the facts point to a win for Fiddling

TEETON MILL proved in the King George VI Chase that a horse in good form can make a nonsense of official ratings and following this line of reasoning Fiddling The Facts looks a good bet to land the Coral Welsh National at Chepstow this afternoon.

Fiddling The Facts, a mare in her second season over fences, comes from the Nicky Henderson stable (five winners on Boxing Day) which is enjoying a fantastic run. She loves soft ground and the trip of three and three-quarter miles should hold no terrors.

Third to Teton Mill in the Hennessy at Newbury, she has by no means an insuperable task at the weights with 10st 5lb, although strictly on the book she has to improve to beat Eudipe and, on last season's form, Forest Ivory.

Eudipe was 15 lengths runner-up in the Hennessy and was clearly attempting the impossible in trying to give 5lb to Teton Mill.

It was another good effort from this Martin Pipe-trained chaser who was placed in the Hennessy, Scottish National and Whitbread Gold Cup last season and deserves to win a high handicap.

He had six lengths to spare over Fiddling The Facts at Newbury and is only 2lb worse off, but whether he will like the ground as much as the mare is open to question.

Forest Ivory, trained by David Nicholson, whose stable has not been enjoying the best of luck recently, was beaten six lengths by Fiddling The Facts at Kempton on Boxing Day last year, but has an 11lb pull now which puts him in with a definite chance.

Supporters of Macgeorge will no doubt point out that Forest Ivory was well beaten by Richard Lee's gelding at Warwick last month when both were making their reappearance.

But Macgeorge has since finished second to Tamarind at Cheltenham where he had a hard race and connections are worried about the effects of that if today's race becomes a slog, which seems inevitable. Dom Samourai has been



Leading light... The Martin Pipe-trained Dom Samourai is one of the market leaders for today's big prize at Chepstow

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN LYNCH

ante-post favourite since he emerged from that gruelling duel with Sun Bay better than ever this season. He put up a terrific effort on unfavourable terms when second to his old rival at Haydock recently and so even with 11st 10lb cannot be ruled out.

Torduff Express won the Betterware Cup at Ascot in good style, which would give him a chance, even though he

is carrying 10lb more than his original long-haul weight and meets Kendal Cavalier on markedly inferior terms compared to their running at Cheltenham last season.

There is clearly in good heart, however, and should make the frame, but Fiddling The Facts (2.15) has improved for her Hennessy run according to her trainer, who is hopeful of a very good run.

Flagship Oberalles (1.10), a four-year-old at present, appears to be in a critical condition with a viral infection last night.

No one was available for official comment at Stock's Thomastown Castle base in Co Tipperary, but a spokesman did admit: "He's critical and the next 24 hours will be crucial."

The spokesman added that Stock was at County Cork Hospital, where he was reported to be "seriously ill, but stable."

Stack, 53, has held a training licence since 1968. His highlights have included a £100,000 win in the 3,000 Guineas in 1994 and Tarascon's triumph in this year's Irish 1,000 Guineas.

Stack was formerly a successful National Hunt jockey and rode Red Rum to his record third Grand National in 1977.

Dorans Pride can take the shine off Florida Pearl

Tony Paley

DORANS PRIDE can upset Ireland's chief Cheltenham Gold Cup hope Florida Pearl with victory in the mouthwatering Ericsson Chase at Leopardstown today.

Florida Pearl, who will go off a short-priced favourite, was rated the best chasing prospect seen for a long time by many experts when winning all his three races last season.

He ended his campaign with a convincing defeat of Saturday's King George runner-up Escartefigue in the Royal & Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham when his faultless jumping and turn of foot was certainly impressive.

The Willie Mullins-trained runner is unbeaten in six starts and seems sure to prove hard to get past this season, but may be worth opposing at such skinny odds in his most difficult task to date against two proven top-class performers in Dorans Pride and Sun Bay.

With the ground set to ride very testing today his natural speed could be blunted, while the favourite is an inexperienced chaser in a field of Gold Cup calibre and his jumping will be seriously put to the test.

Dorans Pride started a worthy favourite for this year's Cheltenham Gold Cup after a successful campaign and ran a close third on ground that was on the lively side. He subsequently disappointed in

atrocious conditions at Aintree, but may have been feeling the effects of his run in the Gold Cup.

The selection started off this season with two comfortable victories and then did not jump as fluently as usual when beaten by Imperial Call last time.

That was over two and a half miles and Dorans Pride is much more effective at this longer trip when racing in top-class company.

Sun Bay has an obvious chance on the form he showed when beating Escartefigue in the Edward Banner Chase on his reappearance at Haydock in November.

However, he was much less impressive when beating Earth Summit over the same course and distance a month later when the weights were very much in his favour.

Sun Bay is a horse who does not stand a lot of racing and as a third tough race in the space of two and a half months may prove one too many for Dorans Pride (2.40) is suggested as the value bet at 5-1 with Ladbrokes.

Calling Wild provided trainer Paul Nicholls and jockey Joe Tizzard with compensation for the eclipse of See More Business at Kempton on Saturday when landing the Fiddly Rover Handicap Chase at Leopardstown yesterday.

The 8-1 chance galloped the opposition into the very heavy ground in the Grade Two event to take the winner's prize of over £65,000.

Stack in 'critical' condition

TOMMY STACK, one of Ireland's top trainers, was reported to be in a critical condition with a viral infection last night.

No one was available for official comment at Stock's Thomastown Castle base in Co Tipperary, but a spokesman did admit: "He's critical and the next 24 hours will be crucial."

The spokesman added that Stock was at County Cork Hospital, where he

was reported to be "seriously ill, but stable."

Stack, 53, has held a training licence since 1968. His highlights have included a £100,000 win in the 3,000 Guineas in 1994 and Tarascon's triumph in this year's Irish 1,000 Guineas.

Stack was formerly a successful National Hunt jockey and rode Red Rum to his record third Grand National in 1977.

Chepstow Jackpot card

CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
1.25 Aramis	Aramis
1.30 Flagship Oberalles (nb)	Flagship Oberalles
1.40 Miss Orphan	Miss Orphan
2.15 Fiddling The Facts (imp)	Earth Summit (imp)
2.50 Explains This	Explains This
3.20 Grational	Cyborg De Beaulieu
3.50 Scarlet Emperor	

Over, left-handed undulating course, nearly 2m round with 250yds run-in. Five fences in home straight put emphasis on stamina. **Gettings:** Soft, w. Dancers. **Winners:** Seven-day winners: None. **Viewers:** 2.50 Angus Argyll. **Placed:** in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. **F.F.A.**

12.35 SOUTH-WEST RACING CLUB NOVICE HURDLE

100	25-50 Aramis (nb) 5-11-0	M. A. Fitzgerald	59
101	52-100 Flagship Oberalles (nb) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
102	53-100 Miss Orphan 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
103	54-100 Fiddling The Facts (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
104	55-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
105	56-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
106	57-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
107	58-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
108	59-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
109	60-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
110	61-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
111	62-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
112	63-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
113	64-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
114	65-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
115	66-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
116	67-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
117	68-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
118	69-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
119	70-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
120	71-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
121	72-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
122	73-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
123	74-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
124	75-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
125	76-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
126	77-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
127	78-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
128	79-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
129	80-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
130	81-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
131	82-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
132	83-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
133	84-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
134	85-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
135	86-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
136	87-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
137	88-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
138	89-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
139	90-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
140	91-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
141	92-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
142	93-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
143	94-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
144	95-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
145	96-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
146	97-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
147	98-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
148	99-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
149	100-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
150	101-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59

1.10 CALOR GAS NOVICE CHASE

201	101-100 Aramis (nb) 5-11-0	M. A. Fitzgerald	59
202	102-100 Flagship Oberalles (nb) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
203	103-100 Miss Orphan 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
204	104-100 Fiddling The Facts (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
205	105-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
206	106-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
207	107-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
208	108-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
209	109-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
210	110-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
211	111-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
212	112-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
213	113-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
214	114-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
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218	118-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
219	119-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
220	120-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
221	121-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
222	122-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
223	123-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
224	124-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
225	125-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
226	126-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
227	127-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
228	128-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
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238	138-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
239	139-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
240	140-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
241	141-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
242	142-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
243	143-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
244	144-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
245	145-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
246	146-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
247	147-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
248	148-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
249	149-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
250	150-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59

1.40 FINAL JUNIOR HURDLE RACE SYO

301	101-100 Aramis (nb) 5-11-0	M. A. Fitzgerald	59
302	102-100 Flagship Oberalles (nb) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
303	103-100 Miss Orphan 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
304	104-100 Fiddling The Facts (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
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312	112-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
313	113-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
314	114-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
315	115-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
316	116-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
317	117-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
318	118-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
319	119-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
320	120-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
321	121-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
322	122-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
323	123-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
324	124-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
325	125-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
326	126-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
327	127-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
328	128-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
329	129-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
330	130-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
331	131-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
332	132-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
333	133-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
334	134-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
335	135-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
336	136-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
337	137-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
338	138-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
339	139-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
340	140-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
341	141-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
342	142-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
343	143-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
344	144-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
345	145-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
346	146-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
347	147-100 Scarlet Emperor 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
348	148-100 Earth Summit (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
349	149-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
350	150-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59

1.40 FINAL JUNIOR HURDLE RACE SYO

301	101-100 Aramis (nb) 5-11-0	M. A. Fitzgerald	59
302	102-100 Flagship Oberalles (nb) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
303	103-100 Miss Orphan 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
304	104-100 Fiddling The Facts (imp) 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
305	105-100 Explains This 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59
306	106-100 Grational 5-11-0	A. P. McCoy	59

Cricket

Australia's latest find out to prove he can last the pace

Paul Allott assesses the career and debut of the long-suffering Matthew Nicholson

IT IS unusual even for an Australian to be awarded the "baggy green cap" when he has played only seven games of first-class cricket.

The circumstances surrounding Matthew Nicholson's entry into the Test match arena could hardly be more bizarre. A classic scenario of right place, right time, has promoted him but there is far more to it than that.

Injuries to two key reserve bowlers, Mike Kasprowicz and Paul Reifel, as well as Jason Gillespie, meant the Australian selectors were searching for a new man. A touch of inspiration and a gut feeling propelled them towards Nicholson on the strength of two useful attributes: he bowls fast and he has performed admirably against England already, taking seven for 77 at Perth as well as putting Mark Butcher out of that game with a split forehead.

The call to Nicholson came as he was boarding a plane from Perth to Brisbane to spend Christmas with his folks. Surfbboard and golf clubs were replaced by cricket kit and Melbourne became his destination.

To appreciate just how remarkable his elevation to Test status has been one needs to examine his recent past. Five years ago at Under-19 level he was Australia's player of the year but soon afterwards his confidence received a dent.

He was told by New South Wales he was not going to make the grade, so he took off to Perth to try his luck with Western Australia.

It has taken him until this season to establish himself with WA, not because of lack of hard work or talent — in addition he has had Dennis Lillee to oversee his preparation — but because a series of debilitating illnesses struck him down.

For two years he has suffered in nightmare proportions; there was an initial bout of salmonella poisoning which weakened him and was followed by glandular fever. He then had a bout of Ross River fever, a mosquito-borne virus not dissimilar to malaria in its symptoms, and, if this were not enough, the continual weakening effects then led to chronic fatigue syndrome which left him without energy and exhausted by the slightest exertion.

Obviously Nicholson has recovered but he still has to control the effects of his various ailments with a carefully planned fitness regime and with the aid of a diet that excludes all alcohol, red meat and dairy produce. He admits to still having spells when his energy levels are low but he is confident that the worst effects are behind him.

Now he has a new challenge as one of Australia's premier seam bowlers and his first day at the office could have gone better. Picked for his pace, he rarely troubled any England batsman with it and ended by conceding a run a ball. His only consolation was the prized first Test wicket of Nasser Hussain.

Conditions were ideal for seam bowling at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and Glenn McGrath showed his young pretender a thing or two by ripping out Mike Atherton and Mark Butcher before they had time to digest their breakfast.

McGrath is without doubt the finished article, the target of Nicholson's dreams. Hard work will be required if he is to attain his goal, a more consistent line is essential and the ability to sustain his pace throughout the day.

Allan Border, now an Australian selector, was encouraged by Nicholson's performance saying: "He is a young, raw, quick bowler in the making and it was a good effort by someone so inexperienced."

Nicholson has borne his recent illnesses with great fortitude and is being handed a chance to fast-track to being a Test-match regular. He has already shown great strength of character in his personal life; he has proved he is a better. Now he has to prove he is a bowler as well.



Only way is up... Matthew Nicholson bouncing back

This is one series our lads have all sewn up

AS USUAL, Stewie had it about right when he said that this tour has been a swings-and-roundabouts situation and so far we've found ourselves on the wrong end of them.

Pod would go further and describe it as a switchback ride with no toffee apple at the end of it for the English cricket supporter.

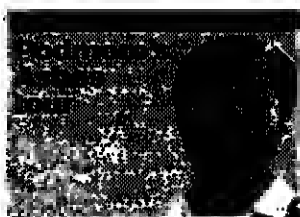
But regardless of results on the pitch or the destination of the Ashes, the fans have always been able to comfort themselves with the certainty that when it comes to fancy dress, there isn't a team on the planet that can live with us.

Christmas Day after Christmas Day, not only in this century but stretching back into the last one, England tourists have established a novelty-costume supremacy unrivalled in the annals of sport.

Taken walk through the MCG museum here in Melbourne and you enter a heritage time warp. It's all here — from the crinoline worn by Sir W G Grace in the first ever competition to the mini-skirt in which Ken Barrington carried all before him as Lulu in 1965/6 (and this after putting Graham McKenzie to the sword all day on an Adelaide green-top).

Being their first tour, some of the younger players like Alex Tudor and Ben Hollies have obviously never taken part in the competition before, so Dave Podmore was entrusted with the task of talking them round the museum to both give them a bit of a history lesson and point them in the right direction regarding what to wear.

The lads were gobsmacked to discover that, for example, in the era before Kerry Packer revolutionised the game, a professional cricketer was expected not only to pay for his



costume himself but also to make it. This could take five or six weeks — the entire length of the sea voyage from Blighty to Down Under — and was the cause of many a notorious contretemps.

Geoff Boycott's absence from the Test arena in the Seventies was a case in point. Geoff had sat up night after night applying lacquer to his loon pants only to discover that Mike Denness had also decided to go as David Bowie. The skipper pulled rank with the result that Boycott refused to wear so much as a sequin in anger for three years.

That's not to say that the modern player has it easy. If anything, the pressure to produce the goods after the Christmas dinner is greater than ever. Look at Graeme Hick. Brilliant performer at children's party level but quite honestly that Fred Flintstone outfit he turned up in the last time round... well, I'm sorry but it was like watching a rabbit in car headlights.

There has probably never been a fancy dress competition as meticulously prepared for as this year's. Nothing was left to chance. Mike Brearley (a famous Bo Derek in his day) had even been roped in as costume psychologist. Morale was sky-high.

All was going swimmingly until our wonderful politicians back home decided to play toy soldiers.

With the launch of operation Desert Fox, it's fair to say

that the England tour party's world caved in. Stewie put his foot down, ruling out half the costumes on grounds of bad taste, in view of the risks being taken by our brave air-men in the skies above Baghdad.

Very fine and patriotic. Tally-ho chaps etc. But try telling that to Al Bader, as was Heggy and Wayne Morton, the physio. Pod himself was considered unfortunate. Lawrence of Arabia being very much a borderline case. And of course band went Nasser Hussain's chance of fancy dress glory, going as his namesake Saddam.

We're beginning to wonder if that guy's luck will ever change.

With the team so depleted by the towel-headed embargo, the clever money was obviously on Mark Butcher. Butch is a bit of an Audrey Hepburn buff, has been since he was in the Surrey under-14s. He's got all the skinny-lasse's vices and knows every word of dialogue from Breakfast At Tiffany's. Pity the poor sod who has to sit next to him on the plane.

Anyway, what with the little black dress and the string of pearls, Butch reckoned he had the No. 1 spot sewn up. But he hadn't bargained for Robert Croft putting together one of the most brilliant disguises of all time and coming as a spin bowler.

So, at the end of the day, at least some of the lads were able to do justice to the very high standards which they set themselves, and as usual our Aussie hosts never had a price costume-wise. Well, six Babes and five Priscilla Queens of the Desert — talk about clueless.

In any case, we knew exactly what they'd be wearing: Mark Waugh tipped us off weeks ago.

Australia rejects Subcontinent call for life bans

AUSTRALIAN officials have rejected a proposal from the Subcontinent Cricket Board that Shane Warne and Mark Waugh should be banned for life for taking money from an illegal bookmaker.

The Australian Cricket Board chief executive officer, Mal Speed, said the pair could not be banned because they had been punished and the matter was officially closed.

Speed was responding to an announcement by the Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Khalid Mahmood that his board and those of India and Sri Lanka wanted the International Cricket Council to introduce life bans for those involved in illegal betting on matches.

Waugh and Warne have admitted taking money during a limited-overs tournament in Sri Lanka in

1994 but deny any involvement in match-fixing.

Mahmood said the proposal would be raised at the meeting of ICC executive board members in Christchurch, New Zealand, next month.

The A.C.B. announced last week it would conduct its own inquiry into match-fixing after several players said they had been approached by bookmakers.



Blossom time... Franklyn Rose celebrates Jacques Kallis being caught behind for 11 runs

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADL BRADLOW

South Africa v West Indies: third Test, second day

Rose bowls career-best to restore pride to West Indies

Andy Capostagno sees a new-wave fast bowler brighten up Durban for the tourists

A CAREER-BEST performance by the fast bowler Franklyn Rose, though unlikely to save the West Indies from a series-concluding defeat, gave the tourists back some much-needed pride on the second day of the third Test against South Africa.

Rose took six wickets for 75 runs and was almost entirely responsible for restricting the home side to a first-innings lead of 94 with two wickets in hand.

The one South African to defy the Jamaican's pacy outwingers for a sustained period was Jonty Rhodes, who finished the day not out on 85 in a total of 292 for eight and will be responsible for extending the lead as far as possible on day three.

Play ended half an hour prematurely due to bad light, a decision which the umpires Russell Tiffin and Dave Orchard needed to think long and hard about since the Kingsmead floodlights had been on for some three hours by the time Rhodes and Allan Donald were offered the sanctuary of the pavilion.

The playing conditions for this series do not include the option of artificial lighting, but both teams agreed to its use before the first Test. Durban in December is a place of low cloud and sauna-like

humidity. The good sense in allowing the floodlights to be used on both of the first two days has already saved between three and six hours of play being lost.

After a disappointing first-innings score of 198, the West Indies needed a good bowling performance and it

came from an unexpected source. South Africa had only added 11 runs to their overnight 46 without loss when Rose had Herschelle Gibbs caught at short mid-wicket for 35. A double strike by Rose then reduced the hosts to 80 for three with Gary Kirsten caught in the slips for a workmanlike 26 and Jacques Kallis caught behind for 11.

In the afternoon session Courtney Walsh produced a snorter to bowl Hansie Cronje for 90 and then Rose accounted for Daryll Cullinan by firing in a throw from the third-man boundary to run him out by millimetres for a well-constructed 40. That reduced South Africa to 182 for five, at which point, as usual, the innings began in earnest.

Shann Pollock underlined his status as the world's premier all-rounder in a stand of 80 for the sixth wicket with Rhodes. Pollock has taken 64 wickets in 14 Tests in 1998 and his 30 runs at Kingsmead raised his run aggregate close to 600 in the same period. It took a flying, one-handed catch by Carl Hooper at second slip that reminded a few of us of another great all-rounder, Ian Botham, to remove Pollock for 30.

The bowler, inevitably, was Rose, who had impressed his captain so much that Brian Lara entrusted him with the second new ball ahead of the lethargic Curtly Ambrose. Rose responded with a second three-wicket spell,

bowling Mark Boucher for a third-ball duck, with a magnificent delivery and sneaking another between the pads of Pat Symcox shortly before the close.

In between Rose's prodigious feats, Rhodes kept South Africa ahead with brilliant stroke play. He twice hit Ambrose over mid-wicket for six and has eight fours in an innings which has so far lasted 123 balls.

But the last word should go to Rose who took six for 100 on his Test debut against India two years ago but subsequently lost his way. He said: "People say fast bowling in the West Indies is dying, but Nixon McLean, Mervyn Dillon, Reon King and myself hope that we can stand in the footprints of the great fast bowlers who have gone before."

Now the tourists must hope for a similar renaissance with the bat in order to keep the series alive.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES	
First innings	
P A Wallace c Cullinan b Kallis	21
J R Murray lbw b Tverberg	23
S Chandrasekhar c Boucher b Kallis	04
C L Lara c Cronje b Tverberg	01
C Hooper c Cullinan b Kallis	22
O George b Pollock	22
19 O Jacobs c Cronje	28
N Lewis c Cullinan b Cronje	01
F A Rose c Kallis b Cronje	01
C L Ambrose run out	01
6 H Williams c Hooper b Rose	01
Extras (lb 5, nb 5)	10
Total (71.1 overs)	198
Fall of wickets: 0, 22, 27, 105, 133, 178, 198, 198	
Second innings	
Donald 134-1-65-0; Pollock 22-2-45-1; Tverberg 12-2-59-2; Kallis 14-4-18-3; Symcox 1-1-15-2; Cronje 4-1-0-18-3	
SOUTH AFRICA	
First innings	
G Kirsten c Hooper b Rose	35
M H Gibbs c Wallace b Rose	08
J H Kallis c Jacobs b Rose	11
C L Hooper c Cullinan b Kallis	22
W J Cronje b Walsh	30
F Rhodes not out	85
6 H Williams c Hooper b Rose	01
14 V Boucher b Rose	01
A A Donald not out	01
Extras (lb 4, nb 2, w 1)	12
Total (for 6, 82.2 overs)	282
Fall of wickets: 0, 27, 38, 140, 182, 282, 284	
Second innings	
27-5-50-1; Rose 22-2-45-1; Lewis 22-2-45-1; Hooper 4-0-18-3; Maclean 11-11-11-1	

Basketball

Storm prevail amid curses

Christian Bright

DERBY STORM yesterday closed the gap on the leading contenders in the Budweiser League. Manchester Giants and Sheffield Sharks, by bolting out Milton Keynes Lions in a controversial clash.

The Derby coach Bob Donewald incurred a technical foul for obscenities and the Milton Keynes owner Vince Macaulay Razaq produced a tirade of his own after seeing his team's recovery from a deficit of 20 points undermined by the fact that four of his players were on four fouls.

The quartet — Broderick Bobb, Richard Scantlebury, Tony Windless and Michael Martin — bowed out in the last 38 seconds of the 81-77 defeat.

"The circus that follows Donewald around works in his favour," Macaulay Razaq said. "The referees ended up calling intentional fouls on our players defensively so they are seen to be calling it fair on both sides. This stops them getting a mouthful from Bob."

There was little between the teams until an 18-3 onslaught from the Storm took them to a 46-33 interval lead.

Derby improved their lead

after the restart, with a basket from York Williams, the most recent recruit to the England squad, a three-point shot from Nate Reinking on his way to 15 points, and two free throws from Joel Burns stretching the advantage to 53-33.

By then Donewald had called down. The referee Mac Callender explained the coach's foul: "He was using obscenities with women and children just behind him in the crowd. Everybody could hear what he said."

Sheffield Sharks added spice to the title battle by defeating Manchester Giants 65-63 in a Uni-ball Trophy tie-

New Zealand v India: second Test

NZ tail wags to set up healthy margin

AN UNBROKEN stand of 82 for the eighth wicket lifted New Zealand to a strong position after the second day of the Test match at Basin Reserve, Wellington.

The pace bowler Dion Nash was unbeaten with 56, which equalled his previous highest Test score, against England at Lord's in 1994; Daniel Vettori, the left-arm spinner, was on 38.

The pair put on 81 in the last session yesterday to bring the host side to 290 for seven, giving them a lead of 83 runs. They survived the second ball and several short-pitched balls by Jagavall Srinath, who bowled his heart out for little reward.

The New Zealand coach Steve Rixon was delighted with the partnership. "A lead of 150 would be ideal, but we'll be happy with what we get and we certainly won't try and grind out runs. We will play positively."

India, who were bowled out for 206, took three wickets in the space of 17 runs in the afternoon session, reducing New Zealand from 132 for three at lunch to 179 for six. The innings was held together in this period by Nathan Astle, who made a fighting 55.

Anil Kumble, who bowled tirelessly and accurately on a pitch which gave him little assistance, prised Astle out in the second to last over before tea, spinning a googly between bat and pad.

Nash and Vettori then took advantage of a third attack. "Nash has worked on his on-side shots for the last year and he enjoyed using his new toy," Rixon said.

New Zealand started the day at 52 for one. Matthew Horne and Stephen Fleming worked diligently to provide a solid foundation.

Fleming was playing fluently and asserting himself when he was run out for 42. Horne and, later, Astle were more circumspect.

India twice dropped Horne off Venkatesh Prasad and while the misses did not cost many runs, Horne's subsequent innings subjected the attack to extra toil. Limited bowling resources meant the misses were damaging.

INDIA	
First innings	
N Srichau c Fleming b Doull	0
A S Jadeja lbw b Doull	10
R S Dhoni lbw b Doull	07
S C Ganguly c Pearce b Doull	07
S R Tendulkar c Bell b Doull	47
A Bhatnagar not out	103
14 R Mongia c Astle b Doull	01
A Kumble c McMillan b Prasad	14
J Srinath c Fleming b Nash	7
V B K Prasad c Fleming b Vettori	18
Harbhajan Singh c Astle b McMillan	1
Extras (lb 6, nb 5)	8
Total (65.4 overs)	206
Fall of wickets: 0, 2, 15, 16, 89, 99, 132, 149, 207	
Second innings	
24-7-55-7; Cairns 17-3-59-0; Nash 14-1-56-2; Prasad 10-2-51-1; Astle 2-0-5-5; McMillan 1-4-0-1	

NEW ZEALAND	
First innings	
M C Bell c Mongia b Prasad	4
M J Horne b Kumble	38
S P Fleming run out	42
N Astle b Kumble	55
C O McMillan c Grewal b Srinath	24
C L Hooper c Tendulkar b Prasad	3
C P Pearce lbw b Prasad	56
D Nash not out	56
O J Vettori not out	38
Extras (lb 17, nb 5)	20
Total (for 7, 112 overs)	290
Fall of wickets: 7, 79, 112, 182, 172, 179, 290	
Second innings	
30-4-81-1; Prasad 23-8-57-2; Kumble 21-14-47-3; H Singh 10-3-4-7; Ganguly 5-0-15-2	

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FA Carling Premiership

	Home										Away									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P							
Chelsea	19	6	3	0	15	5	3	6	1	16	12	14	36							
Aston Villa	19	6	2	1	17	11	4	4	2	12	8	10	36							
Man Utd	19	7	3	1	27	12	2	4	2	12	11	16	34							
Leeds	19	6	2	1	16	3	2	6	2	16	14	15	32							
Arsenal	19	6	4	0	15	4	2	4	3	6	7	10	32							
Middlesbrough	19	4	5	1	16	10	3	4	2	15	14	7	30							
West Ham	19	5	3	1	14	10	3	2	5	8	13	-1	29							
Wimbledon	19	6	3	1	16	10	2	2	5	9	20	-5	29							
Liverpool	19	4	3	2	17	10	4	1	5	15	13	9	28							
Leicester	19	5	2	2	14	9	2	4	4	8	11	2	27							
Derby	19	2	5	2	8	8	3	5	2	10	9	1	25							
Newcastle	19	5	2	3	14	13	1	4	4	8	11	-2	24							
Tottenham	19	4	3	2	15	15	2	3	5	9	14	-5	24							
Everton	19	2	6	2	3	5	3	2	4	9	12	-5	23							
Sheff Wed	19	5	2	3	13	6	1	2	6	7	14	0	22							
Blackburn	19	4	2	4	12	11	0	3	6	7	16	-8	17							
Coventry	19	3	4	3	11	12	1	7	7	5	15	-11	17							
Charlton	19	2	3	3	13	9	1	4	6	10	21	-7	16							
Southampton	19	2	2	6	12	20	1	2	6	3	17	-22	13							
Nottm Forest	19	1	5	3	8	11	1	1	8	9	24	-18	12							

Premiership results

Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. Derby (3-2) Goal: Kozak, Prie, Corbett. 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Non-league

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	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colchester	24	14	1	9	20	12	47
Grays	21	12	7	2	10	17	43
W & A Danden	19	6	3	10	19	16	19
Weston	21	9	8	4	20	22	36
Sewell	20	6	4	10	22	33	28
Widened	20	9	8	3	27	22	36
Widened	20	8	8	4	29	28	33
Widened	22	8	8	6	28	33	33
Widened	20	8	4	10	40	31	28
Widened	20	8	5	7	26	29	33
Widened	18	8	2	8	27	29	28
Widened	20	8	4	8	30	28	33
Widened	22	7	7	8	24	25	33
Widened	20	8	8	8	23	29	33
Widened	21	7	3	11	31	31	24
Widened	20	8	3	9	28	34	24
Widened	20	8	9	7	25	30	33
Widened	21	4	8	9	22	37	22
Widened	20	8	8	8	22	30	33
Widened	21	4	5	12	22	37	17
Widened	20	4	5	11	21	37	17
Widened	22	2	8	11	19	36	16

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National League round-up

Leaders undone as Taylor cuts a stylish dash for Rovers

WHEN top meet bottom at the Stadium of Light today, the First Division leaders Sunderland will be anxious to bounce back from an unexpected defeat whereas Crewe will start the match looking for their second win of the festive season.

Sunderland were beaten away for the first time this season at Tranmere, where Rovers' Scott Taylor was sent clear in the 64th minute and ran 40 yards before beating Thomas Sorenson with a right-foot shot.

It was only Sunderland's second league defeat of the season and their manager Peter Reid said: "We can't expect to win every match. Football is the kick up the backside we needed."

Rodney Jack inspired Crewe to their third home win of the season by beating Bury — 10 points but only five places above them — at Gresty Road. Colin Little and Mark Rivers nodded

Crewe into a 2-0 lead after the break and, although Andy Woodward cut the deficit, Jermain Wright added the third in injury-time.

But it was Jack who had really unhinged Bury's defence and Crewe's manager Dario Gradi said: "Rodney is a match-winner and, if he can learn, then there's nobody more effective than him."

Oxford United, who today visit Portsmouth — fellow strugglers on form and in financial terms — at the Manor Ground, after conceding three goals. The Palace substitute Clinton Morrison and Lee Bradbury, from the spot, earned victory after Dean Windass had equalised the visitors' opener with a 30-yard free-kick.

Norwich's promotion ambitions suffered a setback at Queens Park Rangers where Paul Murray and Gavin Peacock, both set up by Kevin Gallen, secured the points.

National League

FIRST DIVISION

FIRST DIVISION													
Home	Away	Points											
P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Manchester	25	15	8	2	30	18	5	9	1	16	12	14	36
Leeds	25	14	9	3	30	18	4	8	2	12	8	10	36
Sheff Wed	25	12	7	6	23	35	5	4	12	11	16	22	32
Wimbledon	25	12	7	5	23	35	4	11	10	10	14	15	32
Bradford	24	12	5	7	27	42	7	4	11	11	16	17	30
Blackburn	24	12	5	5	37	40	4	11	9	10	14	11	30
Derby	24	10	10	4	44	32	12	4	8	13	10	1	28
Nottingham	24	10	8	8	38	38	10	5	9	11	13	10	28
Sheff Utd	23	11	5	8	35	26	8	5	10	10	14	1	28
Cardiff	23	11	4	10	45	35	12	4	7	12	11	1	27
Sheff Mon	23	8	8	8	37	47	7	6	10	10	14	1	26
Sheff Ths	23	8	7	9	34	37	7	6	10	10	14	1	26
Wolverhampton	23	8	7	9	34	37	7	6	10	10	14	1	26
Sheff Utd	23	8	7	9	34	37	7	6	10	10	14	1	26
Crystal Palace	24	8	8	8	35	40	9	5	10	10	14	1	26
Sheff Mon	24	8	8	8	35	40	9	5	10	10	14	1	26
Sheff Ths	24	8	8	8	35	40	9	5	10	10	14	1	26
Sheff Wed	25	8	7	12	32	56	9	5	10	10	14	1	26
Sheff Utd	25	8	7	12	32	56	9	5	10	10	14	1	26
Sheff Mon	25	8	7	12	32	56	9	5	10	10	14	1	26
Sheff Ths	25	8	7	12	32	56	9	5	10	10	14	1	26
Sheff Wed	25	8	7	12	32	56	9	5	10	10	14	1	26
Sheff Utd	25	8	7	12	32	56	9	5	10	10	14	1	26
Sheff Mon	25	8	7	12	32	56	9	5	10	10	14	1	26
Sheff Ths	25	8	7	12	32	56	9	5	10	10	14	1	26
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Sheff Utd	25	8	7	12	32	56	9	5	10	10	14	1	26
Sheff Mon	25	8	7	12	32	56	9	5	10	10	14	1	26
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Sheff Mon	25	8	7	12	32	56	9	5	10	10	14	1	26
Sheff Ths	25	8	7	12	32	56	9	5					

SECOND DIVISION

Parling (2)
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THIRD DIVISION

Manchester (H) 2	Derby (A) 0
Sheff Wed (A) 0	Sheff Utd (A) 0
Wimbledon (H) 1	Leeds (H) 1
Blackburn (H) 1	Sheff Utd (H) 1
Manchester (H) 1	Sheff Wed (H) 1
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Clogger

A sideways glance at soccer



The Nightclub Incident **ON** **ST**
They all had a night over a night out

Their kit don't fit
The night club incident was a night out for the players. The players were all in the night club. The night club was a night out for the players. The night club was a night out for the players.

A life in pictures



Ask the experts

What have we seen in the last few weeks? A few scenes from the life of the game. The night club incident was a night out for the players. The night club was a night out for the players.

State of the nation

Iceland
Population 250,000. The Icelandic football team is a team of players who are all from Iceland. The Icelandic football team is a team of players who are all from Iceland.

A-Z of British football
The A-Z of British football is a list of all the football clubs in the United Kingdom. The A-Z of British football is a list of all the football clubs in the United Kingdom.

The gaffer tapes
The gaffer tapes are the tapes that the gaffer uses to tape the players. The gaffer tapes are the tapes that the gaffer uses to tape the players.

Cup of winners



DAVID DAVIES' DIARY
David Davies is a soccer player who plays for the Manchester United team. David Davies is a soccer player who plays for the Manchester United team.

Premiership: Blackburn Rovers 2 Aston Villa 1

Gregory calls for fourth official after Oakes gets raw card deal

Daniel Taylor sees a controversial sending-off upset Aston Villa as they lose the leadership

The referee Dermot Gallagher left Ewood Park through a side entrance on Saturday with another blot on his record after wrongly sending off Aston Villa's goalkeeper Michael Oakes for deliberate hand-ball.

Match stats

	Blackburn	Villa
Possession	50%	50%
Attempts on target	6	5
Attempts off target	6	5
Corners	5	5
Fouls	14	12
Offsides	2	7
Bookings	4	1
Sendings-off	0	1

fun was going to take him outside the penalty area and dropped the ball. Alerted by a linesman, Gallagher deemed it deliberate hand-ball.

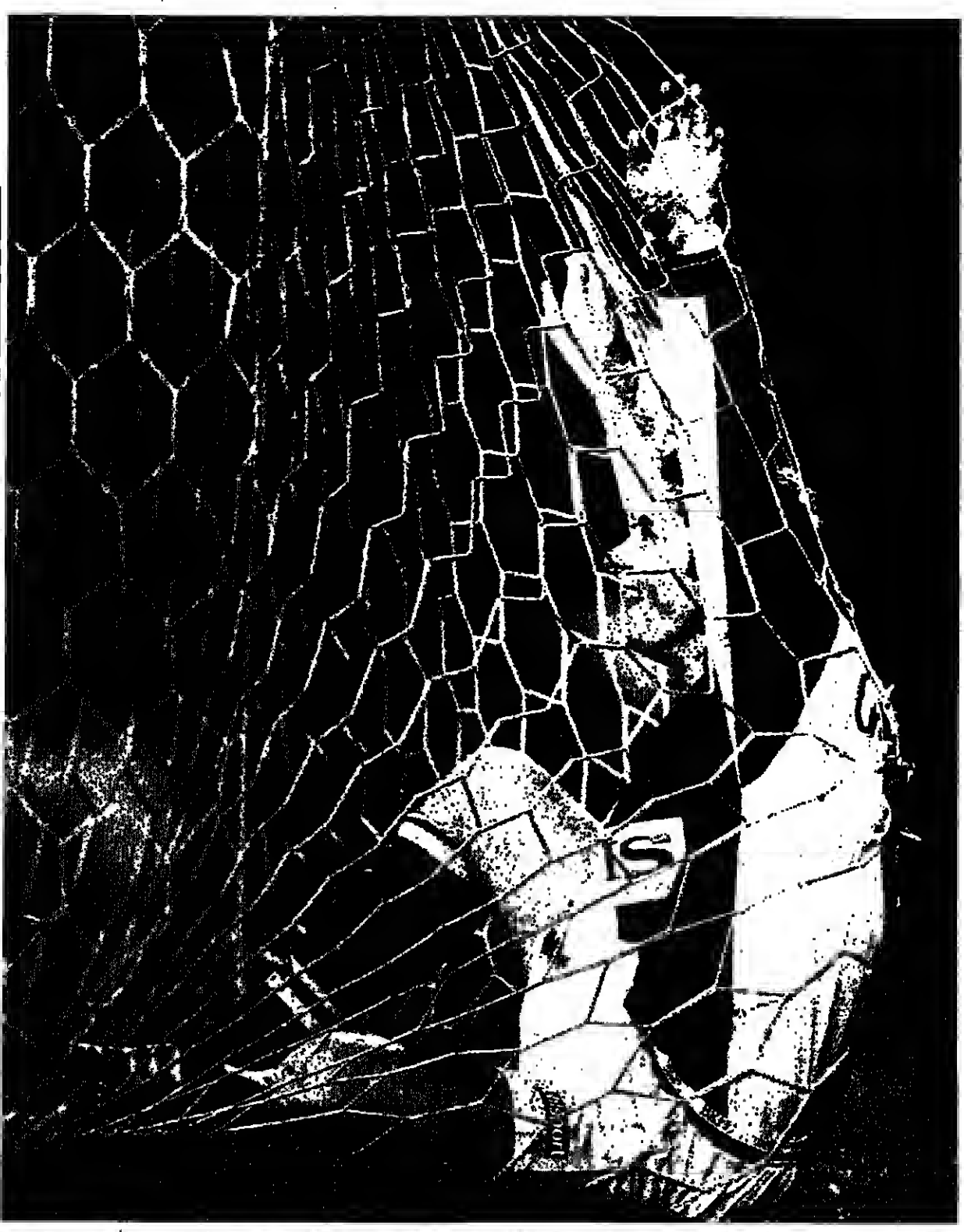
As Oakes trudged down the tunnel, even the home supporters offered him a sympathetic round of applause, while the television analysts were pointing out Gallagher's error.

The Villa manager John Gregory said afterwards there had never been a better case for bringing in a fourth official to adjudicate using television evidence.

"I am not talking about petty off-sides and the like," Gregory said. "But a referee should be able to consult a fourth official who has the benefit of television evidence for major decisions if there is any doubt in his mind."

"The mistake was really made by the linesman but it is Dermot who will be cast as the villain in the eyes of our supporters. Just think how Michael feels. He was playing a blinder and now he faces a suspension and could lose his first-team place. We shall be appealing for changes to be introduced by the FA but, not only that, the whole of football should be appealing, too."

Blackburn, who have been revitalised under Brian Kidd and should receive a further



All net up... Kevin Gallacher gets in a fine mesh after scoring Blackburn's opening goal

PHOTOGRAPH BY CLIVE BRUNSON

boost this week with the £4.3 million signing of the Barrow striker Ashley Ward, were already a goal up at the time of Oakes' dismissal. Their first-half domination was rewarded by Kevin Gallacher's follow-up header on the stroke of half-time after Tim Sherwood's first effort had struck the underside of the bar.

Blackburn could count themselves unfortunate after a courageous fight-back capped by Riccardo Scimeca's 20-yard drive 10 minutes from time. But seven minutes later Sherwood benefited from the industry of the substitute Kevin Davies to beat Villa's replacement keeper Adam Rachel, although even that was overshadowed by visiting complaints of hand-ball.

Sherwood was one of the chief dressing-room dissenters during Roy Hodgson's inglorious final days at the club, but appears finally to have realised his duties as a footballer rather than a sulker. "I was not happy a few weeks ago but that has changed now and I am enjoying coming into the club again," said Sherwood. "All

of the manager's ideas are geared for success in the Premiership and we are moving in the right direction." Villa lost not only their lead in the Premiership but possibly Lee Hendrie and Ian Taylor to injuries for today's visit of Sheffield Wednesday, a match they must win to regain the initiative from Chelsea.

Everton 0 Derby County 0

The Smiths are miserable now

Mark Tallentire

ON the only other occasion Everton entertained Derby County on Boxing Day it was also a draw. But the similarity ends there.

That game, in 1938/39, finished 2-2 and Everton went on to become champions while County settled for a respectable sixth place.

After this painstaking 90 minutes, the best that both clubs can hope for this season is mid-table security even though the manager, David Davies, has a reputation for being a bit of a pessimist.

Derby were even less threatening, their only near thing a deflected shot by Ibrahim Bakayoko which Mark Poom did well to turn away.

Derby replaced Rory Delap, who had damaged knee ligaments, with Kevin Harper in the second half. Dear Sturridge, the more usual option was left on the bench following speculation about a £2.5 million move to Sheffield Wednesday.

"He had been not right to play" was his manager's terse assessment, although a lack of alternative bodies may mean the striker faces Middlesbrough today.

Everton fans, who have seen only eight Premiership goals at Goodison Park all season, hope of them by Manchester United, will be glad they are facing Spurs on enemy turf.

Chief executive job may go

THE FA may scrap the post of chief executive following Graham Kelly's resignation and hand more power to their chairman Keith Wiseman's expected successor.

Wiseman's reign is likely to come to an end when the FA Council meets next Monday, and the FA finance chairman Sir David Hill-Wood believes appointing a new executive chairman may be the way forward.

Newcastle United 0 Leeds United 3

No goal, no Ba but Gullit

Michael Walker sees Newcastle's manager talk down his critics and talk up his team

FOR a man angrily asserting his allegiance to Newcastle United in particular and the North-east in general, while lambasting the local media and a vocal Newcastle shareholder for questioning his commitment to St James' Park, symbolically perhaps it would have been better had the piece of paper being folded and unfolded by Ruud Gullit's fingers on Saturday evening not been Dutch money.

But it was Gullit's talk, though not as much as Gullit who, during a lengthy and persistent response to last week's reports about him spending too much time in Amsterdam, offered Kevin Keegan and Bryan Robson as examples of men who live far away from the club but manage and then asked the press gathered three feet in front of him: "Why have a go at me?"

Gullit answered the question himself - "I think I know why" - although he would not elaborate on that. Maybe he did not want to be undiplomatic, a reason he gave for refusing the opportunity to speak to the shareholder who called him "semi-detached" at Newcastle's annual general meeting last Monday, but he did say: "I am not here thinking about whether the share price goes up or down. I'm here for everything."

"Management wise, we are doing very, very well for the club. That is why it was out of order to say this."

"This defeat does not help but I have big shoulders. I am happy with the club, the players, we will go forward from this."

Gullit's intended answer to his critics had been to produce Ibrahim Ba from Milan on Thursday but Ba failed a medical and Gullit was left without his winning punchline.

Having envisaged Ba as a replacement for Keith Gillespie, Gullit was also left without a right winger to supply Alan Shearer and Duncan Ferguson, who were together for the first time, though Gullit said that he had made "a breakthrough" on another signing.

It is likely to be Didier Drogba, a Paris St-Germain full-back, although presumably Shearer and Ferguson would prefer it to be Steve Stone of Nottingham Forest, given his crossing ability. There was not exactly a drought of crosses here as David Wetherall, Jonathan Woodgate and Nigel Martyn all excellent would vary if but there were not many from the hyline.

Warren Barton's diagonal centre from deep after 36 minutes was typical. It found Shearer but the other part of the £23 million strike force had not read the knock-down. About 23 seconds later Leeds went in front.

Harry Kewell, who had an impressive game, scored from 12 yards following a rammy clumsy pass from Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink.

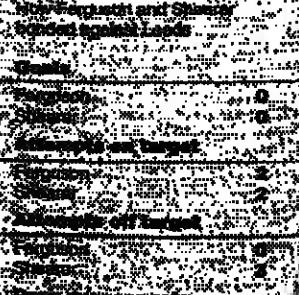
Kewell's shot was untrue yet it still beat Shay Given and after a brief, uncoordinated rally by Newcastle to start the second half, Given was beaten again. Kewell was at the heart of it again, turning Steve Howey before driving powerfully from the edge of the area. Given spilled the shot and Lee Bowyer poked the ball in.

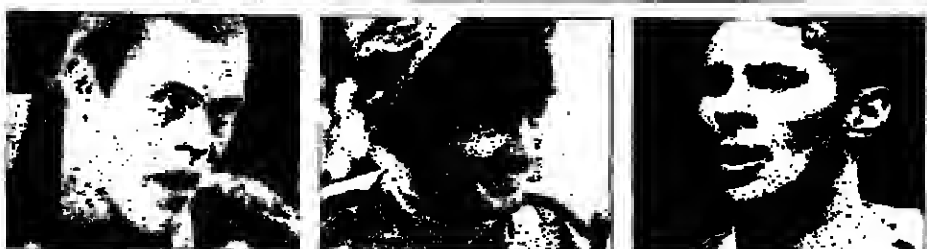
Another Newcastle mini revival was prompted and David Hopkin headed off the line from Shearer but it was merely the prelude to a third Leeds goal.

The economic efficiency with which David O'Leary has his weakened side passing the ball was personified by the young substitute Stephen McPhail, his intelligent distribution allowing Hasselbaink to finish emphatically.

It was Hasselbaink's 11th goal of the season. Here is a Dutchman earning his guilders.

United at last





Trying time
London Scottish
blow Saracens
off title course
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Run of the Mill
Williamson's easy
ride to victory in
the King George
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The Guardian Sport

Monday December 28 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk

Australia v England, fourth Test

Mike Selvey in Melbourne sees the England captain score a first century against Australia to steer his side clear of early trouble

Stewart's opening gambit pays off

Gough turns up the pace for early breakthroughs

AFTER Saturday's wash-out had deprived almost 65,000 people of their traditional Boxing Day entertainment, England gave as good as they got here yesterday when the weather was straight from the Antarctic and Alec Stewart at last found the missing piece in the jigsaw of his career.

The England captain, restored to the opening position he craves, made his first Test century against Australia in his 46th and finest innings against them.

It was a display of jaunty strokeplay with a touch of arrogance and a share of the sort of good fortune that has scarcely come the way of Stewart and his side here. It rescued England from a disastrous start against the new ball and helped them to 270, having been put in to bat by Mark Taylor.

In barely 3½ hours Stewart made 107, hitting 16 boundaries. With the aid of Nasser Hussain, with whom he added 77 for the third wicket, and more especially Mark Ramprakash, whose 63 was his sixth Test half-century this winter, he pulled England round after Mike Atherton and Mark Butcher were out without scoring to Glenn McGrath.

In fading light — the day finished nine overs short of the full quota — Darren Gough produced some of the fastest bowling of the series, removing Michael Slater and

Scoreboard

ENGLAND	
First innings	
M A Stewart b McGrath	107
M A Butcher c Langer b McGrath	19
N Hussain c Healy b Nicholson	82
M R Ramprakash c McGrath	63
D S R Waugh	38
G A Hick c Fleming b MacGill	3
W K Hogg c Healy b S R Waugh	3
D W Headley c Taylor b McGrath	14
G Gough b MacGill	11
A R G Fraser not out	0
C O Mulhally b MacGill	0
Extras (lb, w, nb)	14
Total (76 overs)	270
Fall of wickets: 0, 4, 81, 200, 202, 206, 244, 266, 270.	
Second innings	
McGrath 25-5-64-3; Fleming 19-3-71-0; Nicholson 10-0-58-1; MacGill 19-3-61-4; S R Waugh 5-2-9-2.	
AUSTRALIA	
First innings	
M A Taylor c Hick b Gough	7
M J Slater b Gough	4
S L Langer not out	12
M E Waugh not out	13
Extras (lb, nb)	13
Total (for 2, 18 overs)	50
Fall of wickets: 13, 20.	
For bats: S R Waugh, D S Lohmann, M A Healy, D W Fleming, S C G MacGill, G O McGrath, M J Nicholson.	
Bowling: Gough 7-5-15-2; Headley 7-1-15-0; Mulhally 3-1-12-0; Ramprakash 1-0-8-0.	
Umpires: G Harper and S Bucknor.	

rate, dizzy for Tests, of four an over.

Matthew Nicholson, fast-tracked into the Australian side, took the wicket of Hussain but was generally treated scornfully. Stuart MacGill, who tricked and teased at Adelaide, was reduced for a while to the inaccurate leg-spinner of the first Test when England missed a chance to hammer him.

That MacGill subsequently played a major part in the day's proceedings tells the tale once more of England's collapse. He ended Stewart's innings, bowling him round his legs when, perhaps still caught up in the excitement of reaching his century, the captain swept too vigorously without covering his stumps.

Ramprakash followed immediately, one of a brace of cheap wickets for Steve Waugh as he flicked loosely to the on side and lobbed a gentle catch to mid-on. Now the slide was on.

By the time Alan Mullally was leg-before to MacGill for his fifth wicket in six innings England had subsided from 200 for three, with only modest resistance coming from Graeme Hick, whose 39 contained a huge midwicket six off MacGill, Dean Headley and Darren Gough. The leg-spinner finished with four for 61, his last three wickets coming in eight deliveries at no cost.

England's score was better than it might have been considering the first three overs, when Atherton was caught at the wicket and Butcher brilliantly claimed at short leg off bat and pad, but again not as good as it ought to have been.

Taylor, who rarely asks the opposition to bat first without good reason — of 25 losses won out of 49, and incidentally 10 of the last 11 in Ashes matches, on only five occasions has he put the opposition in — might be satisfied with the outcome.

But equally he would have been surprised that, once the shine and hardness had gone from the new ball, strokeplay became relatively easy, attacking fields notwithstanding. There was less moisture than anticipated and pessimists, who could not see England reaching 150, were sorely disappointed.

Wonderfully as Stewart played, however, the question still needs to be addressed as to whether resuming his place at the top of the order, relinquishing the wicket-keeping duties to another debutant Warren Hegg in the process, was not a case of tinkering with things simply to accommodate the captain.

Specifically, the two suc-



Opening out... Alec Stewart, watched by Ian Healy, comes down the wicket to hit Australia's leg-spinner Stuart MacGill for four

STU FORSTER



Point of no return... Gough sees off Slater

SEN CURTIS

cesses of the England batting this series have been Hussain at three and Ramprakash, initially at six, then five and finally four. Butcher, meanwhile, for all his lack of success in other innings, had made a century in the first Test, his second in three matches: two hundreds in six Tests is not a bad ratio. Now, in order to sustain Stewart's

move, Butcher was dropped to three which in turn moved Hussain and Ramprakash. Gough's riposte in the evening was superb. For the first time, the Speedster — the measuring device that became such a revealing part of last summer's series — was being used in Australia but, when the home side began their innings, it was switched off.

A cynic might suggest it was because they did not want an Englishman to be seen bowling faster than an Australian. But it did not need a speed gun to show that Gough generated considerable pace, hitting Taylor and Langer body blows.

He deserved some luck and got it when Slater, attacking without discernible foot move-

ment, was lbw and Taylor was smartly picked up by Hick at second slip, significantly, to his right; Hick seems to drop left-handers too frequently for comfort, perhaps because such chances generally come to his weaker left side.

A comparison with Alex Tudor would have been appropriate. But the young Surrey bowler was declared

unfit on Boxing Day after an injury sustained during Christmas training. Reports that it came from playing football had, for the sake of all concerned, better be insubstantial. Tudor has already found enough ways of getting hurt in a brief career without help like that.

Paul Allott, page 15

Television and radio



Jump lead... Gianfranco Zola leaps on Chelsea's goalscorer Tore Andre Flo

CHAP PMENTS

Premiership: Southampton 0 Chelsea 2

Chelsea fly high feeling low

Paul Weaver sees a knee injury to Poyet leave the leaders in no mood to celebrate

CHELSEA, whose victory at Southampton on Saturday returned them to the top of the Premiership while extending their unbeaten run to 18 matches, do not attract a gush of sympathy when they lose a player.

There is suspicion, as when Elton John scuffed a pair of shoes or when Carmen Miranda mislaid one of her fruity hats, that the rich repertoire holds plenty more where that came from; in football, managers of ordinary clubs even exchange charmed smiles and talk of odds being evened up.

So at The Dell on Saturday evening the grim faces in the Chelsea dressing-room spoke most eloquently about the importance of Gustavo Poyet, who because of a right knee injury is expected to miss not only tomorrow's match at home to Manchester United

but possibly many more. Yesterday Gwyn Williams, the club's assistant manager, said: "We will not know the result of the scan until later in the week. But we are not talking here about a short-term injury. It looks like Gustavo will be missing for weeks rather than days."

The Uruguayan midfielder, who was carried off after a clumsy, two-footed challenge by Southampton's otherwise impressive new signing Patrick Collister, is his club's 11-goal leading scorer and more besides. His creative skills sometimes represent him as the fulcrum of this exceptional side and his strength makes him equally useful in both penalty areas.

The fact that Chelsea could welcome back Graeme Le Saux, Roberto Di Matteo and Marcel Desailly for tomorrow's match, when Dennis

Wise will complete his suspension, helps explain why there are not too many damp blankets concerning the club's latest casualty.

Contrast Chelsea's plight with that of Southampton, who may have to find replacements for Matthew Le Tissier and Stuart Ripley at Nottingham Forest this afternoon.

Poyet missed six months of last season with a cruciate knee ligament injury and, although he returned to collect a European Cup Winners' Cup medal, his absence weakened the side's Premiership resolve. His goal on Saturday made Chelsea's victory safe and he could prove more diffi-

Match stats	Sou	Chel
Possession	51%	49%
Attempts on target	1	5
Attempts off target	3	9
Corners	10	3
Fouls	14	12
Offsides	5	3
Bookings	1	2

cult to replace than Pierluigi Casiraghi, who is also suffering a long-term knee injury.

Afterwards the coach Graham Rix said with a shrug: "Gustavo's been on fire recently. We're going to miss him. We always have a theme before a match and the manager's big word before we came here was 'personality', though I think he spelt it 'personally'.

The Dell can be a difficult place to come to and it was stressed that the younger players had to stand up and be men, which is what they did."

The absence of Poyet may tempt the player-manager Gianluca Vialli to return to the side. He played against Tottenham nine days ago, 10 days after his previous appearance against Aston Villa, so he is due. The Spurs game, however, was only his third in the league this season and his match fitness, if not his ability, is in question. As he approaches a year in office he has taken to the job like a duck to water but very few carry it off as player-manager

for very long.

The match between the second top and the second bottom sides followed a predictable pattern. Chelsea could even afford Celestine Bafayaro, at left-back, to be a little accident prone, while in the middle of defence Frank Leboeuf had such a fully-full time it looked like one of those Christmas bloopers.

Such was the poise of their England Under-21 midfielder Jody Morris that none of this seemed to show. Then there were the goals. The first came after 20 minutes, a gentle but accurate volley from Tore Andre Flo after Gianfranco Zola's clever defeat of the off-side trap. The second, a tap-in by Poyet, came three minutes into the second half.

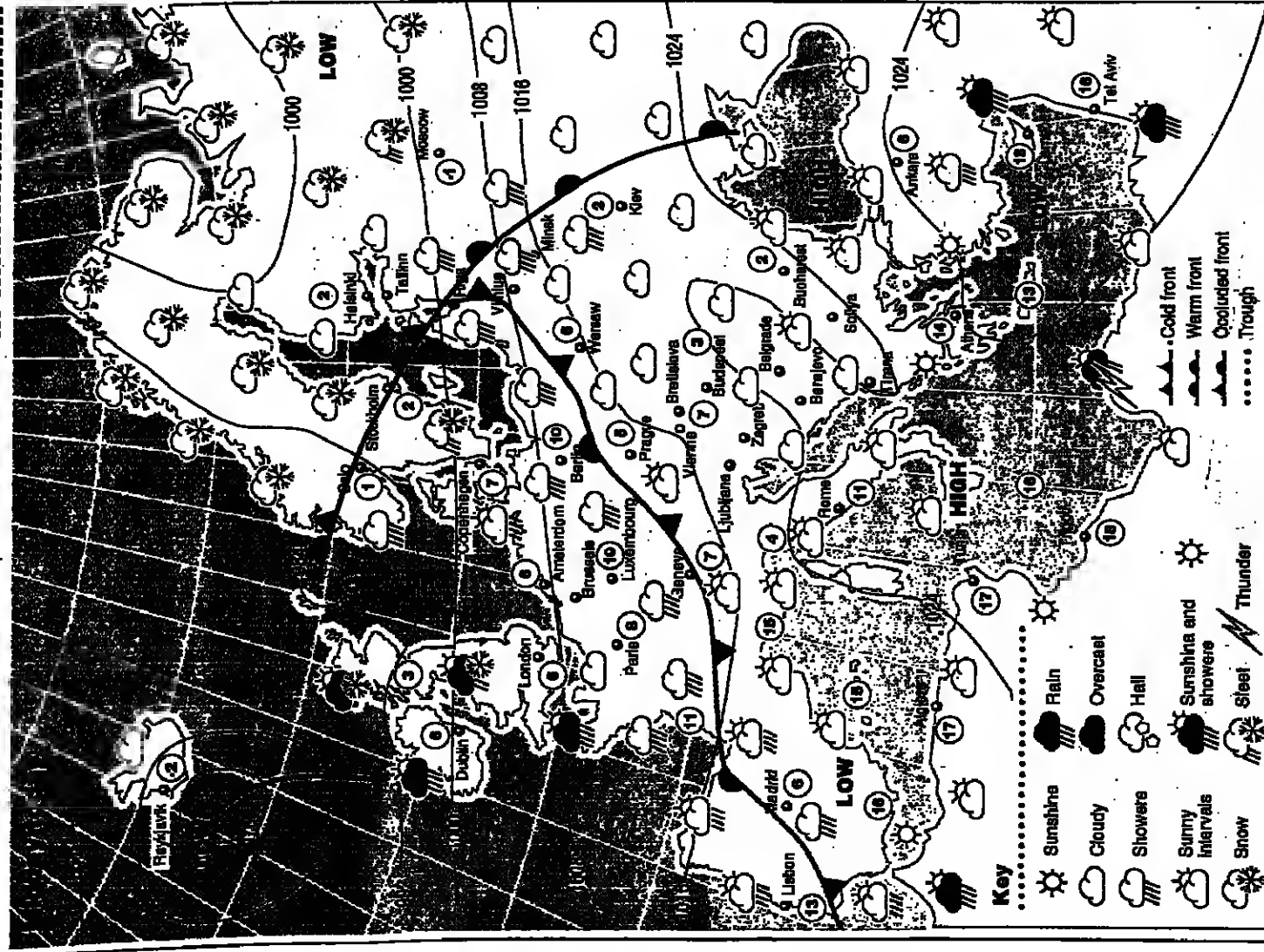
"I thought Chelsea showed a lot of grit," said Southampton's manager David Jones. His side, too, showed a fighting spirit. But there are times when struggling sides no longer look masters of their bleak destiny.

The weather in Europe

150

010

The weather in Europe



European weather outlook

Scandinavia will be windy with bright spells and showers, although longer spells of rain will develop in the north. In the north-west, a cold front will bring rain and snow, with a cold snap and more snow in the north. A very large range in temperature from TC in Denmark to minus temperatures in the north, but also and more snow in the north. A cold front will bring rain and snow, with a cold snap and more snow in the north. A very large range in temperature from TC in Denmark to minus temperatures in the north, but also and more snow in the north.

Around the world

Area	Today	Tomorrow
Algeria	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy
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Algeria	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy
Algeria	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy
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Algeria	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy
Algeria	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy
Algeria	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy

Television and radio

BBC 1
7.00am Children's BBC: From 7.00am to 7.30am, the children's BBC shows a variety of programmes including cartoons and educational shows. 7.30am News: The first news bulletin of the day. 8.00am News: The second news bulletin of the day. 8.30am News: The third news bulletin of the day. 9.00am News: The fourth news bulletin of the day. 9.30am News: The fifth news bulletin of the day. 10.00am News: The sixth news bulletin of the day. 10.30am News: The seventh news bulletin of the day. 11.00am News: The eighth news bulletin of the day. 11.30am News: The ninth news bulletin of the day. 12.00pm News: The tenth news bulletin of the day. 12.30pm News: The eleventh news bulletin of the day. 1.00pm News: The twelfth news bulletin of the day. 1.30pm News: The thirteenth news bulletin of the day. 2.00pm News: The fourteenth news bulletin of the day. 2.30pm News: The fifteenth news bulletin of the day. 3.00pm News: The sixteenth news bulletin of the day. 3.30pm News: The seventeenth news bulletin of the day. 4.00pm News: The eighteenth news bulletin of the day. 4.30pm News: The nineteenth news bulletin of the day. 5.00pm News: The twentieth news bulletin of the day. 5.30pm News: The twenty-first news bulletin of the day. 6.00pm News: The twenty-second news bulletin of the day. 6.30pm News: The twenty-third news bulletin of the day. 7.00pm News: The twenty-fourth news bulletin of the day. 7.30pm News: The twenty-fifth news bulletin of the day. 8.00pm News: The twenty-sixth news bulletin of the day. 8.30pm News: The twenty-seventh news bulletin of the day. 9.00pm News: The twenty-eighth news bulletin of the day. 9.30pm News: The twenty-ninth news bulletin of the day. 10.00pm News: The thirtieth news bulletin of the day. 10.30pm News: The thirty-first news bulletin of the day. 11.00pm News: The thirty-second news bulletin of the day. 11.30pm News: The thirty-third news bulletin of the day. 12.00am News: The thirty-fourth news bulletin of the day. 12.30am News: The thirty-fifth news bulletin of the day. 1.00am News: The thirty-sixth news bulletin of the day. 1.30am News: The thirty-seventh news bulletin of the day. 2.00am News: The thirty-eighth news bulletin of the day. 2.30am News: The thirty-ninth news bulletin of the day. 3.00am News: The fortieth news bulletin of the day. 3.30am News: The forty-first news bulletin of the day. 4.00am News: The forty-second news bulletin of the day. 4.30am News: The forty-third news bulletin of the day. 5.00am News: The forty-fourth news bulletin of the day. 5.30am News: The forty-fifth news bulletin of the day. 6.00am News: The forty-sixth news bulletin of the day. 6.30am News: The forty-seventh news bulletin of the day. 7.00am News: The forty-eighth news bulletin of the day. 7.30am News: The forty-ninth news bulletin of the day. 8.00am News: The fiftieth news bulletin of the day.

Q2

EUROPE

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Remember me?

From disgraced ex-minister to Chancellor in just 30 months. Simon Hoggart on the remarkable return of Peter Mandelson



June 29, 2001

"We are starting." Gould said, "from the very bottom. Last week I managed to convince an important focus group... Things are bad. A-argt going south here and makes Jeremy Beadle look sincere" were among the kinder judgments."

"Look at it," said Wright, who was wearing a hand bow-tie that resembled the flagpole that had been blown to shreds in a Turkish harbor, "as a reflagation, but as a product recall. That can leave a brand stronger than ever; take Perrier and Windex after their contamination scare. Labour has a fantastic brand identity - caring, compassionate and honest. You have to reclaim that, but for yourself."

"Your USP? Weight gain, 'Is that every angle this pundit you now is going to beat in the media. You've got a fantastic opportunity to re-brand yourself" - entirely at the media's expense."

Combsack trails ... Mandelson finds the roots in Heriotspool (above left), tells policy with Mandela Messenger+ (centr.) and goes back to grassroots with delegates at the Labour Party conference (below right)

PHOTOGRAPHS BY: ROBERT TOOTH

"So, we start by getting you up in Hardtop more often, Gould said. "No more weekends swimming round Nothing Hill, folks." He spoke to the local football club and they're happy for you to help train the kids in their Community Youthball scheme. They're as desperate as you and they need all the help they can get."

Mandelson groans as Gould continues. "Then, you round the old folks' homes and ask if they have any old jobs. Ben'll sell the peaches. You, separated with pain, smiling at some old cat, we could get that on every Sunday front page, Maggie. He beamed with pleasure.

Mandelson shuddered slightly. "But what about Westminster?"

7

DOWN

1 Lesson (9)
2 Deceive (9)
3 Dismay (3)
4 Organ of his body (9)
5 Violent storm (7)
6 Celebrating of houses (4)
7 Lying of cream, (4)
8

25 Rates troops or money (4)

UP

13 Means of girl or Yorkshire town (8)
15 Glossy evergreen outgrowth (4)
18 Pompous – ill-ventilated (9)
19 Term of streetwork (9)
20 Enave – truck (9)
21 Part of speech (4)

22 Happening (9)
23 Healthful (7)
24 Apparently impossible to solve (9)

25 Rates troops or money (4)

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WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS PARTY. IT'S OUT OF CONTROL!

THIS IS THE LASTING CONSEQUENCE OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY AND THE SILENCE-BANKING!

BY GARRY Trudeau

MURDER!

I HAVE ANOTHER TALK TO YOU, MURDERER.

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by David Shenkin

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With award jurists' choices for the

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may possibly complicate.
Must be flexible and
have a variety
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immigration date.

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the programme,
the television
industry is
opening up
to good
ideas from
the economic
sector, a
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and creative
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The Mercury Television Company Limited

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New York

The Guardian Weekly December 28 1997 = 13

Jon Snow

He launches the revamped Channel 4 news next week. So he's short of time. For mother, daughters, feeding the guinea pig—but not for talking to Monica Lewinsky

Photograph by Eamonn McCabe

Moving on

initiated by LIRA.

He is longing to meet Hillary Clin-

Interview

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guilty about it."

everything

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A fair cop

Roy Greenslade says Mandelson can't complain. The press just did its job

the supreme irony of this much vaunted over-mighty arm of the media being brought to heel by journalists' shoddiness blinds us to the fact that Peter Mandelson is one clever operator.

In extremis, with an unusually unorthodox press briefing for blood, people rarely think straight enough to do the right thing. Mandelson did. If he had stayed he might just have eluded him, as his resignation note implied, but the Government

would have suffered more and, in the end, he might well have been forced from the Cabinet anyway.

After resigning so quickly this career might yet regain its upward trajectory. All because, in his defence hour, he gave the press what it wanted. Well, enough. (In a sense) was the other way round: he went to his own record before the newspaper had the chance to mount a debilitating campaign calling for his head.

It's hard not to imagine that several editors would have preferred the opportunity to torment an increasingly beleaguered Mandelson over a

Going...?

The Queen
 Mandelson, the minister at the secret £275,000 loan

Oh no I'm not

Going . . . ?

The Mirror 750

PETER PANIC

My mother will pay off £33,000 debt within weeks says mother as Blair admits serious error

Oh yes you are

[illegible]

period of weeks. Having found it so difficult to lay a glove on Tony Blair, they thought they saw an opening in his defenses at last.

Only, so Mandelstam deserves the prize for the way he handled the criticism, it is, but it's equally important not to let the press for exposing him to maintain the financial arrangement with the Jeffrey Rothmans. However, some of his aides are at losing their influence, and his friends and colleagues, and they, believe me, they shouldn't defend him. They should let the press fault themselves or the public by suggesting that all the press's fault.

People should not join the

had merely placed important facts in the public domain.

A day or so later I was asked on a radio broadcast to tell the public what other people don't want them to know. In the horticultural tradition of much-quoted the Mandelstams/Lezhinskys, the twenty and varying quiting of the homosexual ministers which preceded this scandal, the revolution was not so much a leading brother's abortion as a mother's leading brother's abortion, a sum of money at a mother's rate of interest (with virtually no interest).

The more serious question is how much the press informed Mandelstam and Bilibin's decision that he should go. By Tuesday morning was clear that the press were against him.

Robinson, rightly or wrongly, has been accused of a string of questionable financial transactions, from the unannounced he came under such a sustained attack. Meanwhile, their Malibu home. Without Portland, about the informed Blair, and the Cabinet Secretary about the loan. Even if it helped the man, then he should have when being appointed Tenda as the DTI launched an inquiry into the loan itself, was a private matter between the two friends dating back to their time in Cambridge, and the

thought of a fightback was impossible. The Mail pelted with the most vicious abuse of description. The Mirror had Peter Panko, for someone who had so concerned himself with the message it was obvious that the headlines were all against him. The headlines, just, from the Sunday Times, yesterday, said the man was

and the Mail all took stirring anti-Mandela editorial lines despite his efforts to get the message across that by appearing on *Newswatch*, the 60-year-old was not only worried but "I will not regret".

But by Wednesday morning an

As with Lord Hoffman and the homes, to the Mail on Sunday's front page story that Blair has ordered

Getting at the truth requires sometimes tedious methods, if the story itself is in the wider public interest, then that is fair enough

view, suggested that the press were over-egging the story. His Sunday

So we were not divorced from the essential work of the Mandelstam on either by thinking that the story behind the story is of equal interest, or by thinking that the story itself would indeed be nice to know how many of the key decision-makers at the time and why it came to our attention — who asked it first, on whose behalf or to whom — but the mechanics are largely irrelevant.

The story stands as an end in itself. It was not made to be a chain of events, nor a reading will have brought more discomfit.

Perhaps one of the best analysts of this age-old conflict between the press and politicians is Mandelstam himself. He younger years were marked by thorough immersion in the Labour party and after Neil Kinnock's defeat in 1992, no one set about the task of writing the press more successfully. He adopted an intelligent approach, meeting a number of the key decision-makers at the possible. Refraining some, gaining the ear of the majority, and opening a dialogue with them all.

It was not so made a chain of events, nor a reading will have brought more discomfit.

[illegible]

Media Guardian

A year of sackings, sales and sky

January

1-1 BBC and ITV come to looking like a bad joke. The BBC's new look is a disaster, and there will be no more of it. The new look is a disaster, and there will be no more of it.

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8-9 The BBC's new look is a disaster, and there will be no more of it. The new look is a disaster, and there will be no more of it.

Who's in?

It's been 12 months in which reputations have been made. And lost. Dan Glatzer reveals the media's highs and lows

Michael, up from 433 to 487 mentions in the UK press this year. Her achievement places her in fourth place in the list, behind Messrs Blair, Clinton and Hague. It also places her above the year's other wonderkid, Michael Owen. From a modest 476 mentions in 1997, the boy's own hero rose to 2,945 mentions this year.

And there is indisputable proof that the supremacy of the "pogonics" minister Charles has risen from the shadows of his ex-wife, with almost 300 more mentions than Diana for the last year. But in the year that the press and the tabloids in particular had promised to exercise self-restraint in their reporting of the lives of the royal family, mentions of Prince William and Prince Harry have stayed at the same level as in 1997. Prince William's name appeared 573 times in the national press, against 779 mentions last year.

For Prince Harry the totals were 510 last year, 532 for 1997. Other notable increases year-on-year were produced by George

Boyott, the only woman on the media list, while tabloid rival Piers Morgan creeps in at the foot of the list. Fleet Street's second fastest rising star was the man with the most to gain, David Veldand, who merited just 17 mentions last year - possibly his byline count - but has leapt to 70 mentions this year.

But what of the hellraisers, the media types who will do almost anything to keep their names in print? Andrew Neil, said to report, is in decline, meaning 235 mentions against 246 in 1997. James Brown, former Mr. London, now master GQ, was discredited on suspicion of trying to rig the count. An early strategist, he had high name-counts revealed to be fraudulent once the term "Goddieher of Soul" was excluded from the search.

Our faces of 99

4 pages preserve diversity. This industry has injected debate about the future of the media into the public consciousness since the beginning of the century when press barons, having founded great empires, were watched warily by politicians, who feared their power.

It was accepted that if ownership was concentrated in too few hands, the proprietors would exercise undue control over the minds of their readers. Democracy would be threatened.

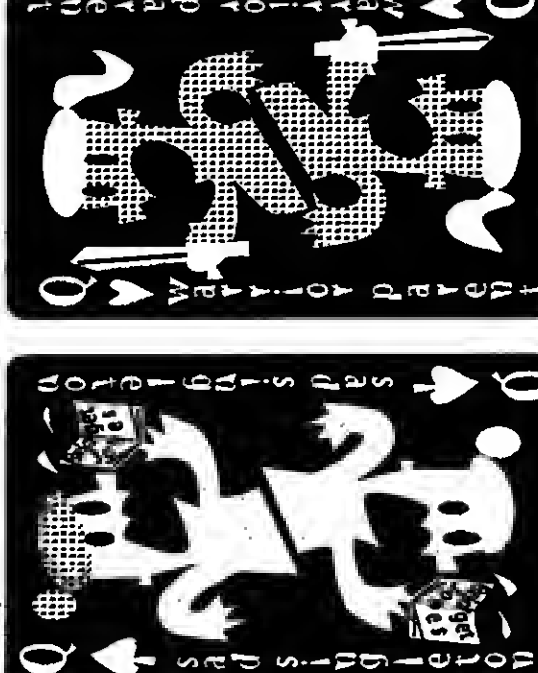
In a multi-media age this argument is considerably less persuasive. As long as cross-media ownership is regulated, there is no point in having so many papers fighting so unproductively with each other every day.

Competition can hardly be said to have improved editorial content in recent years. Indeed, it is largely begun. Papers have come to resemble each other, concentrating on reactive features and lifestyle material rather than on breaking news and risk-taking resources on investigations.

Papers clinging on for dear life, such as the Express and Independent titles, have been forced to cut editorial budgets, which undermines their journalistic commitment. These are, in effect, fake newspapers. That isn't to criticise their editors and staff: they are making the best of a poor situation. Nor are these papers without their merits. It is a tribute to all the staff that they do so well against the odds. But what is the point of the exercise? What are these papers for?

As one media chairman told me recently, the newspaper industry defines business logic because unprofitable titles are kept going without any realistic hope that they will ever make money. People own papers for income rather than profit.

Economies apart, the political objection to losing titles is surely irrelevant. What genuine political diversity exists among our morning papers anyway? Some are left-of-centre or



Boycott Shamed for taking misogyny to new heights after being found guilty of assaulting his former girlfriend.

Kate Winslet For being so horribly bland.

Linda Tripp For breaking a sacred rule: never set up a tape recorder, get your friend to spill the beans about who she's chatting, then tell the world.

Madeline Albright For showing her solidarity with Sudanese women by dropping a bomb on them and her war-mongering against 'em'.

Baroness Jay For not being a feminist. Privilege has clearly gone to her head.

The Prodigy For smacking his Blonk Up.

society

being underwritten by millennial seers such as Austin Repath, the "millennium pilgrim" who lectures around the US on the 2000 effect. Woman, or if I may, the feminine energy that is found in both men and women, is emerging in a rapid and unprecedented way at this moment in history," he says. "But it will not be a simple case of patriarchy replacing patriarchy. Women will need to move beyond their anger towards men. There are millennia of wrongs and pain that will not easily be exorcised."

Repach advocates a therapeutic ritual process, perhaps "not dissimilar to Bishop Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission". He adds that "the dark side of the feminine will need to be acknowledged; women will be asked to take responsibility for it and use it creatively."

So, some advice for 1999 and beyond. If you can't be assertive, be a warrior, launch a small and beautiful business, keep in with the clan, and acknowledge your dark side. And may the force be with you.

acquiring power through the female construct. Prew.

Meanwhile, at the Hayley Centre for Forecasting, Sylvia Gagnon says: "The social norms for gender roles are not as strong any more. Now women have more choice. This also means the end of the sad singleton. The notion that single women are desperate was widespread last year, but the flipside is choice." Gagnon says. So goodbye Bridget Jones, hello smiling singleton. "No longer do women feel they have to stay with man they are not happy with, or have pressure put on them to marry early."

The concomitant - masculinity - may have been overvalued, but it is still a part of the human condition that happens at any time of change. Roles are changing and it's disturbing. Yet 1999's glass ceiling will remain unbroken. Figures show that while women occupy higher ranks, management is still predominantly male. Female supremacy tends to be in smaller companies. The consumer trend-setters are

Meanwhile, out goes sisterhood (what you missed it?) and in comes elanring. Pluam translates: "Clanring refers to female alliances that set through groups. That may explain why there will be we're told, a sharp increase in female criminal behaviour in general and in girl gangs in particular."

One recent report in the US showed a small but disturbing trend towards women marshalling male accomplices to rape other women. But Pluam at Brainkieve sees this as marginal. "It's a search for powerfulness, but through imitating a male construct," she insists. "On the whole, I think we will see many more women finding ways of

suffer silently in romantic victimhood. They say: I've got to get my life sorted... and my partner, Barry says. That's sound like fun."

Faith Popcorn, meanwhile, the world's most famous futurologist, is currently writing a book about female futures called Eye Olution. "The Eye Olution trend is all about the power of the female market," says

Meeble Pluam, president of Popcorn's marketing consultancy, Brainkieve. "Traditionally, she says, manufacturers have been slow to market to women 'male' products such as cars."

But now this is set to change. Furthermore, women not only start more new businesses than men (Greenleaf four times as frequently)

Melanie Phillips Harbours in the Sunday Times have brought the reactionary out of the closet. A recent column was entitled Who Will Speak Out For The Battered Man? Mmm. Guess.

Margaret Thatcher Like a monster in a horror movie, she crawled back to defend General Pinochet and suggest that single mothers should be put in religious institutions.

Lara Croft Well, we can't hate a woman who doesn't exist. But Jeremy Smith, owner of the software company that created the game, is reported to have made a £1m bonus last year alone. How big will her tits have to be to double it?

Baroness Jay For not being a feminist. Privilege has clearly gone to her head.

The Prodigy For smacking his Blonk Up.

The Guardian

Every Wednesday in the

owner and the right editor who shared a similar vision. The Express could have been retooled, just as the Daily Mail was under two men who died last year: the third Lord Rothermere and Sir David Begg.

Now, in effect, it's just too late. No one because there aren't enough sales left to play with, but due to the overall deterioration of the market and the huge divergence to digital space, the truth — and of points me to say it — there is no longer any point in carrying on with the three Express titles.

Though Rupert Murdoch probably never did actually say that only three national daily papers would eventually survive, he had a point. There are now too many titles eating too few papers, and there will be fewer still as the years move on.

I recognise this is boring. It has long been assumed that we must defend every paper, even beyond its local readership.

My

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I recognise this is boring. It has long been assumed that we must defend every paper, even beyond its local readership.

nally the biggest question in broadcasting in 1998 was "Will ITV survive News at Ten?" And the biggest question of 1999 will be "what will happen when it does?" For the next eight months of the year, it was all about whether ITV's Richard Evers and David Liddiment could successfully threaten, cajole or bribe their way to a muted position across the nonhousehold network.

Suddenly in September it all came together. Proposals were made, the independent Television Commission consulted, the entire country said no and permission was given. A headline writers' dream. It was And Finally for News at Ten (Bong). What on earth will we talk about next year?

News is still big news in television. The BBC's news programme strategy review. Another mammoth undertaking, this one was 18 months in the making. Tony Hall, chief executive of BBC News, announced that the six O'Clock News would be more accessible and the Nine more foreign; that Jill Dando would be concentrating on other career options; and Huw Edwards is the man to watch at 6pm. These were hard-fought battles in the year from hell for the directorate.

Moving the world's largest news organisation into White Clay proved as daunting an effort as every year could expect and no review of this year could complete without a tribute to the BBC's digital NPS news system. Tears, recollections, apologies, articles, programmes falling off air and a threat